'Plot' part of plan to stop GMA in 2004

Story on Page A2

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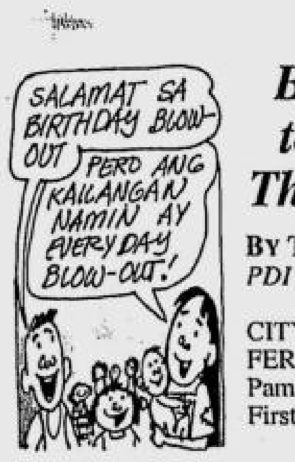
SALAMAT SA BIRTHDAY BLOW-OUT
PERO ANG KAILANGAN NAMIN AY EVERY DAY BLOW-OUT!

Bicol NGO tells Mike: Thanks but…

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Thank you, First Gentleman Mike

BICOL/ A16

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Why John Travolta endures
- Women directors come into their own
- Masters of the sci-fi film
- Disney studio still on sound footing

TRAVOLTA

Mayon erupts anew; evacuees flee again

By Rey Nasol and Roly Embile
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY–Some 12,000 evacuees, who have returned to their homes since Monday, yesterday scampered for their lives when Mayon Volcano rocked Albay province anew.

Mayon exploded at 4:10 p.m. and sent a heavy volume of volcanic ash 1.5 kilometers in the air, according to Edgar Laguerta, a resident volcanologist here.

He said more explosions could occur anytime.

The pyroclastic materials and lava from yesterday's explosion flowed 3 kilometers down the slopes of the volcano through the Bonga gully, directly threatening Sto. Domingo and Daraga towns and part of this city.

Once again, Camalig, Guinobatan towns and Ligao City were blanketed with dark-brown clouds of volcanic ash carried by a mild southwesterly wind.

Laguerta said that Alert Level 5 over Mayon stands.

This is characterized by pyroclastic materials

MAYON/ A16

THE MAJESTIC but terrifying sight of Mayon Volcano erupting on Friday afternoon.

EDWIN BACASMAS

SC rejects TV trial for Erap

'Public trial not the same as publicized trial'

By Rocky Nazareno

UNLIKE the aborted impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, Filipinos will not get to watch the live television coverage of his trial at the Sandiganbayan where he is charged with plunder, perjury and use of an illegal alias.

Ruling that "a public trial is not synonymous with a publicized trial," the Supreme Court yesterday denied the request of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) to allow live media coverage of the trial of the deposed president.

Voting 8-6, the justices maintained that since Estrada stood to lose not only his "precious liberty but also his very life, it behooves all to make absolutely certain that an accused receives a verdict solely on the basis of a just and dispassionate judgment."

"But it must also be conceded that television can work profound changes in the behavior of the people it focuses on," the court pointed out.

The high court effectively laid down a landmark ruling drawing a line between "the constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and the right to public information, on the one hand, and the fundamental rights of the accused, on the other hand, along with the constitutional power of a court to control its proceedings in ensuring a fair and impartial trial."

"With these rights racing against one another, jurisprudence tells us that the right of the accused must be preferred to win," the decision said.

SC/ A16

Kidnappers snip victim's ear for ₱10M

FILM GRAB

VIDEO showing gagged British national whose ear is about to be sliced was sent by his kidnappers in Metro Manila to the company he works for to force it to pay a P10-M ransom. The tape was shown at a security briefing for intelligence officers at the British Embassy.

By Arlyn dela Cruz

THE VIDEO shows a light-skinned man in a white T-shirt and shorts lying immobile on a cement floor, gagged with what appears to be a sock or crumpled newspaper and carton, his eyes covered by masking tape, his limbs bound by light chains.

A pair of hands, apparently masculine, appears in the frame. The hands disappear. When they reappear, one hand holds a pair of ordinary sewing scissors. The other takes hold of the bound man's right ear.

With one long, precise clip of the scissors, the unseen owner of the hands cuts off the curved upper portion of the ear. The bound man's screams and sobs of both pain and terror pierce through his gag.

The stomach-churning five-minute video was the main attraction at a special security briefing for intelligence officers held at the British Embassy in Manila recently, according to a source in Camp Crame with access to a copy of the tape.

The consensus of most of the intelligence officers after viewing the gruesome footage was that only a seasoned torturer could have performed the act of calculated cruelty.

The victim in the video is Azhar Ali Khan, a British national of Pakistani decent, who was abducted in May,

KIDNAPPERS/ A3

Ping: Berroya blames me to cover up his laziness

By Cathy C. Yamsuan
and Armand N. Nocum

A FURIOUS Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson yesterday opened fire at the latest allegations linking him to kidnapping activities, even as his accuser, a former civilian agent, promised to reveal more, but only to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lacson said he has prepared letters addressed to his supposed kidnap targets lest they start believing "Ador" (not his real name), the former agent who claims that he participated in kidnappings ordered by Lacson when he was head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

"I have written letters to assure them that the charges hurled by Ador, *'yang pinutukan ng magaling na 'yan* (that sonofagun), are false," Lacson said.

Interviewed on an ABS-CBN program, Lacson said that Ador's surfacing could only be the handiwork of police intelligence chief Reynaldo Berroya, whom he accused of having a "sick mind."

"There is only one prominent person with a sick mind. He is Berroya. He cannot carry out his responsibilities, and that is why he is passing the blame to others," he said in Filipino.

Ador, 29, decided to go public after supposedly realizing that other members of the alleged kidnapping group within the PAOCTF were being killed one by one.

He said there were 15 of them originally. Only two others aside from him remain alive, he claims.

"This is not about money. I'm doing this because I fear about being next," he said.

Ador has been on the run since last week. He faced a television camera Wednesday, saying that he believed that he would gain some protection if the public learned the truth.

He conceals his face during in-

PING/ A16

'Butcher of Balkans' to face UN crimes trial

THE HAGUE—Ten years ago, Slobodan Milosevic, the man known as the "butcher of the Balkans," visited the Netherlands capital for a peace conference. He was then the president of Serbia.

Yesterday, the man who once described himself as the "Ayatollah Khomeini of the Balkans" was back in The Hague, but this time behind bars following his dramatic handover to the United Nations war crimes tribunal to face trial for "crimes against humanity."

The 59-year-old architect of the Balkan conflicts that produced Europe's most barbarous atrocities since World War II became the world's first head of state to face trial by an international court.

He could get life imprisonment for "crimes against humanity" during the 1998-1999 Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

About 10,000 ethnic Albanians were estimated to have died in the crackdown, which ended in 1999 after a 78-day Nato bombing campaign.

The UN war crimes court deputy prosecutor said Milosevic would also be indicted for war crimes com-

BUTCHER/ A16

Quit or be fired, President warns millionaire execs

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Jhunnex Napallacan

RESIGN or be fired.

President Macapagal-Arroyo warned senior executives of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) who disregard her order for a cut in their multi-million salaries.

"I will not hesitate to fire any person at whatever level who thinks that the country owes him or her a big salary while the country struggles to overcome economic difficulties," the Chief Executive said in an opening statement at her weekly news conference.

"To those who do not want to cooperate and make a sacrifice, it would be better for them to resign," she said in a tone that she used in warn-

QUIT/ A5

Family fights over Ilusorio remains

Widow not informed of hubby's death; where are the ashes?

ONCE upon a time, the Ilusorios, Potenciano and Erlinda, were inseparable.

PHOTO FROM BOOK, EDGE OF HEAVEN BY ERLINDA KALAW-ILUSORIO.

IN LIFE, the family fought over his person. And now, they are fighting over his remains.

When billionaire Potenciano Ilusorio died at 88 last Thursday, his widow, Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusurio, was not informed.

Two officials of the National Bureau of Investigation told the Inquirer that the widow had asked the bureau to secure her husband's remains—wherever they are.

Three children of Ilusorio allied with the deceased are allegedly hiding their father's remains from their 81-year-old mother.

According to the NBI officials, they had also been requested by the widow to perform an autopsy to determine the cause of Ilusorio's death.

This will take some doing as the Inquirer has learned that he was cremated on the same day he died.

There are plans to bring the ashes to Baguio and scatter them on the grounds of the Baguio Country Club where Ilusorio was longtime chairman of the board.

In an interview with the Inquirer last night, Marietta, who has sided with her mother during a long saga of court battles over the custody of the then ailing patriarch, said that they learned about the death of their father only yesterday afternoon through intermediaries.

Adding to their grief, she said,

FAMILY/ A5

ANG AGA NAMAN NG ELECTION GIMMICK NA YAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

'Plot' part of plan to stop GMA in 2004

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE SUPPOSED destabilization threat and rise in organized crime activities are part of a "grand design" to weaken President Macapagal-Arroyo's chances in the 2004 polls, according to a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Retired Gen. Lisando Abadia yesterday offered this analysis as fears of a new power grab somewhat eased after ousted President Joseph Estrada's uneventful arraignment Tuesday before the Sandiganbayan.

Ms Macapagal had earlier said destabilization moves similar to the Estrada supporters' May 1 attack on Malacañang were being plotted in time for the arraignment.

"There is a grand design to unsettle GMA and keep shaking up her administration," Abadia said. "By making it appear that she has made several boo-boos, they hope to weaken her chances for election in 2004."

Abadia declined to name those behind the alleged plot, or the challenger to Ms Macapagal at the polls.

He refused to comment when asked about speculation that Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson would run for president in 2004.

Lacson, a close Estrada ally and former director general of the Philippine National Police, is suspected of involvement in the rise of organized crime activities through his trusted subordinates at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Abadia said the crimes were "apparently orchestrated" by anti-administration quarters.

"These people are continuously planning, and when they see an opportunity, they will grab power even before the 2004 elections," he said.

He also said this would explain the allegations that certain parties were wooing military officers with money to help topple the government.

Abadia said it was in this political context that the recent disbanding of the Special Reaction Unit (SRU) of the Navy's Special Warfare Group (SWAG) should be viewed.

The SRU was disbanded on orders of AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva because its personnel had been receiving allowances from Lacson's PAOCTF.

Disunity

Senators said issues like the disbanding of the SRU were sowing disunity among Filipinos and creating an impression of chaos in the country.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Lacson's close friend and "mistah" at the Philippine Military Academy, said the government should take the SRU officers and men to court instead of subjecting them to "trial by publicity."

"If the disbanding of the (SRU) is called for, then let us implement it. But we should not impute political motives into the act," Honasan said.

"Let us file charges against them if they are really guilty" of destabilizing the government, he said. Without adequate proof, he added, the government should simply "lay off."

Administration Sen. Renato Cayetano echoed this view, saying the Senate should investigate the matter.

"People should know why it was disbanded. If (the AFP has) intelligence reports, it is important for the public to know the real score," he told the INQUIRER.

He said the issue now involved not "partisan affiliations or personalities" but "the security of the state."

Cayetano also said the Senate should look into Malacañang's revelations of a destabilization plot which, he said, many people found hard to believe.

Attachment

Abadia said Honasan also had "a lingering sentimental attachment" to the Navy SWAG, and had purchased special equipment for it using his pork barrel funds.

He said that before the May 1 attack on Malacañang, Honasan was in contact with the elite group.

Composed of three officers and 77 men, the SRU is trained in demolition, commando tactics and other special military operations.

Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong, former Navy chief, was among those who organized the SRU in 1976-77.

"The SWAG is the equivalent of the US Navy's Seals (sea, air and land specialists)," Wong said. "The SRU has the extra cutting edge because it is especially trained for intelligence."

The SRU can function in both urban and rural settings, and can "kidnap, infiltrate, blow up, snipe, dive into water or from the air—anything," he said. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

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Death toll mounts in hunt for bandits

ISABELA, Basilan—Two more soldiers and an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf gunmen holding US and Filipino hostages were killed in a fresh battle in this Mindanao island province, the military said yesterday.

The deaths raise the toll to 18 government soldiers and at least 20 bandits killed and more than 75 wounded on both sides in a month of fighting since the rebels embarked on a kidnapping spree.

The soldiers, who died in battle Thursday afternoon, were former Muslim rebels who joined the government forces as part of a 1996 peace accord between Manila and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Abu Sayyaf casualties were reported in the clash, but the bodies were taken away by retreating members of the group, a military report said. The Abu Sayyaf, holding 23 hostages in the jungles of this province, is a breakaway faction of the MNLF.

Fighting has been stepped up in the past five days as government troops said they were closing in on the gunmen, but there have been no reports about the fate of the captives.

The guerrillas, holding at least 23 hostages, have split into two groups.

Armed forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said troops were closing in on the main band of bandits who were holding US Christian missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and eight Filipinos.

Adan said the whereabouts of the second group, holding 13 plantation workers, was not known.

At least four hostages are known to have been killed, and 11 have either escaped or been released since the crisis began on May 27.

The Abu Sayyaf say they have also killed an American, Guillermo Sobero, but his body has not been found.

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she had called in US government help as the hostage crisis intensified.

The President's announcement came as security forces said they were investigating a threat of terrorist bombings in Manila to take the pressure off the Abu Sayyaf bandits under siege from pursuing troops.

"I have asked the US to help with their surveillance expertise and in supplying us with some modem equipment and their response has been positive," she said.

Ms Macapagal did not elaborate on the type of assistance the United States was providing against the Abu Sayyaf.

Washington sent Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to the Philippines soon after the hostages were taken nearly five weeks ago, but US Embassy spokesperson Michael Anderson refused to disclose details of further aid.

"We remain in close touch with the government of the Philippines, which has the lead in resolving this situation, but I am not going to answer more specifically," he said.

Police said the arrest in Manila of Abu Sayyaf intelligence officer Harsim Abdulajid had uncovered an apparent Abu Sayyaf plan to stage a series of bombings in Manila.

Also yesterday, Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak ruled out his government's role in talks to free the hostages. *AFP, with a report from Carlito Pablo*

Nokor defectors land in RP

A FAMILY of seven North Koreans fleeing their country by way of China arrived in Manila at 8:05 p.m. yesterday on the third leg of their trip to freedom.

The family—an elderly couple, their daughter, her husband and their three children—had been granted safe passage by China out of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office in Beijing, officials said.

The North Koreans ultimate destination is reportedly South Korea, which has offered them asylum.

Last night, they were in transit in the Philippines after having flown from Singapore, but as of 9 p.m., they had not left the plane.

Two officials from the South Korean Embassy and Filipino immigration officers went up the plane to talk to them.

The family had entered the UNHCR office in Beijing on Tuesday saying their lives were in danger if they returned home or if they continued to live illegally in China as they had been doing for the past two years. *TJ Burgonio with AFP reports*

Memo war erupts between poll execs

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

NOW it is the war of the memos.

The Commission on Elections is embroiled in a new controversy after the two commissioners who were appointed officers in charge by chair Alfredo Benipayo in his absence issued separate orders enjoining Comelec staff to comply with their directives.

This after political parties and party-list groups have been clamoring for the bickering at the Comelec to end so the poll body could resolve pending electoral issues like the uncompleted senatorial and party-list canvassing of votes.

The continuing intramurals between Commissioners Rex Borra, on the one hand, and Rufino Javier, on the other, has so confused the Comelec staff that department heads have been holding reports in abeyance because they didn't know whom to follow.

"We'll just wait for Benipayo to come home, so there will be no question who is head of the Comelec," a department chief said.

Some quarters, including Borra himself, have asked Benipayo to cut short his official trip to Sweden to resolve the leadership dispute brewing between the two factions in the poll body.

Benipayo's hasty return is unlikely, however, said a Comelec official, as his expected date of arrival is July 3, a few days away.

Benipayo left June 22 for Stockholm to attend two conferences. Before leaving, he appointed Borra and Javier OICs for judicial and quasi-judicial matters and for administrative and financial matters, respectively, until his return.

The day after Benipayo left, Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Mehol Sadain, Ralph Lantion and Javier himself signed Resolution 4488 setting aside Benipayo's appointment of Borra and Javier, and designating Javier as acting chair.

Borra on June 25 issued a memorandum declaring Resolution 4488 illegal.

In the memorandum, Borra said the arguments raised in Resolution 4488 were "very much displaced" since it improperly used Supreme Court jurisprudence to justify Javier's appointment in Benipayo's absence.

Borra said the SC ruling could not be applied in the current situation because the position of chair was not vacant, as was the case when then Associate Commissioner Haydee Yorac was appointed acting chair in place of chair Hilario Da

In reply, Javier issued on June 27 a memorandum enjoining "strict compliance" by all Comelec officials and employees to Resolution 4488.

The next day, Borra issued another memorandum clarifying that his June 25 memo was "not merely an opinion but a directive to all Comelec officials and employees" to follow Benipayo's memorandum of June 18 which designated himself and Javier as OICs.

Manila court will try Dacer murder case

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court has jurisdiction over the double murder case filed by the Department of Justice against the suspects in the killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Manila RTC Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada made the ruling as he denied a motion to quash filed by members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force who were indicted in the case.

The accused had argued that the Manila court did not have jurisdiction over the case since Dacer and Corbito were killed in Cavite, not Manila.

Ponferrada upheld the argument of State Prosecutors Ruben Corretas and Juan Pedro Navera that the charges were "in the nature of a continued crime," since the victims were kidnapped in Manila before being taken to Indang, Cavite.

"The court believes and so holds that it has jurisdiction over the offense charged," Ponferrada ruled.

The judge declared that "the offense charged, being a continued crime consisting of a series of acts, the occurrence of one of the acts in Manila entitles this court to acquire territorial jurisdiction over it."

The arraignment of 22 former PAOCTF operatives has been for July 10 at 8:30 a.m. before Manila RTC branch 41. *Rocky Nazareno*

Gloria addresses faithful

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will address the National Congress on the Laity today at the Philippine International Convention Center on the topic "Building a Nation."

The event is the highlight of the yearlong Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Action of the Philippines, which closes in September.

CAP was established in 1950 as an organization of all Church-mandated organizations in the country. It was renamed the Council of the Laity of the Philippines, or the Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas, in 1973.

The Congress theme, "Building a Nation . . . Changing the World" sums up its goal of exhorting the laity to greater participation in the life of the Church.

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Wahid puts up brave front, regales GMA at lunch

By TJ Burgonio

EMBATTLED Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid said in Manila yesterday he would finish his term, even as he faces impeachment in August.

"I will not be impeached. I will survive 100 percent," Wahid tersely told a press briefing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before flying home to Jakarta after a brief Manila visit.

Wahid, who flew in at around 10 a.m. aboard a Garuda Airlines jet, had a luncheon meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang. Shortly after, he rushed back to the airport for his 2 p.m. flight.

Wahid faces impeachment by the national assembly on Aug. 1 over allegations of incompetence and corruption. Most Indonesian legislators have threatened to replace him with Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Wahid, clad in an orange and white *batik* shirt, also denied reports he will fire his military chief for opposing his plan to declare a state of emergency. "There's no sacking in the military except in case of emergency," he said.

During his visit to Australia, Wahid had threatened to declare a state of emergency to stop moves calling for his ouster. "In my view, the state of emergency is something forced on us," he said in Manila.

Before Manila and Australia, Wahid visited New Zealand.

Wahid was hopeful he would be able to strike a deal with his opponents. "We should find a common denominator while still respecting the parliament, the people's assembly and the executive branch," he said.

He added that he would declare a state of emergency only as a last resort. "The emergency thing is the last thing to come. It shall be decided collectively. I hope that we can find a win-win solution with the parliament while still respecting the Constitution," he said.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr., who saw Wahid off at the airport, said the Indonesian leader mentioned his impending impeachment "only in passing and not in a serious way," during the luncheon.

INDONESIAN leader Abdurrahman Wahid and President Macapagal share a light moment during his short visit to Malacañang.

JOAN BONDOC

Despite his woes back home, Wahid was jovial during the lunch and even regaled Ms Macapagal and her Cabinet with some jokes, Guingona said.

"He's a man with a big sense of humor. He entertained us with jokes," he said.

Guingona said President Macapagal did not discuss Wahid's political problems or advise him how to address them.

During the luncheon, Wahid promised to look into the cases of some 12,000 undocumented Indonesians living off the coast of Davao, as well as the cases of undocumented Filipinos in Indonesia.

"They were touched on during the lunch, but we didn't explicitly discuss solutions. I think this will be tackled by the two countries' foreign ministers," he said.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo took up the issue of overstaying Indonesians in the country through a formal letter she handed to Wahid prior to his departure for Jakarta.

In her letter, Domingo appealed for a top-level effort to find "a final and lasting" solution to the decades-long problem.

According to her, Indonesians arrived in waves and have been living in Mindanao for 30 years now, with some marrying Filipinos and engaging in trade and commerce.

"Their presence there has drawn some complaints from the local people, particularly fishermen and merchants, who feel they are being robbed of their livelihood opportunities," she said.

Wahid's flight to Manila from Australia was delayed 30 minutes after his tour was hit by plane problems for the second time Friday.

A faulty cockpit window in the Garuda Airlines Boeing 737 delayed the Indonesian leader's departure as technicians repaired it, officials said. Wahid stayed on the plane while Garuda workers fixed the window.

The Boeing was the second plane used by Wahid after the Indonesian Air Force Boeing 707 that flew him to Australia developed an oil leak in one engine and had to make an unscheduled stop in Darwin on Monday. *With Christine Avendaño and AP reports*

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Kidnappers snip off victim's ear

(From page A1)

held for more than two weeks and released after his company paid a P10-million ransom to the kidnappers, the source said.

Khan's abduction was just one of four kidnapping cases involving British nationals staying in Metro Manila, sources told the INQUIRER.

The most recent victim was reportedly a British woman held at gunpoint at the Glorietta shopping mall complex at the Ayala Center in Makati City.

The woman was immediately released after she paid a still undetermined amount of money withdrawn from an ATM machine, one source said.

Plate

In a copy of the tape, viewed by INQUIRER staff members Thursday night, the camerawork was unsteady and amateurish, and the quality of the footage, grainy.

The person who cut the ear held the severed portion in front of the camera for several seconds, and placed a plate beneath it to catch the blood.

Another disturbing thing about the video was that the torturer showed no sign of hesitation or nervousness. His hands remained steady for the length of the sickening scene.

The tape was sent to the Manila office of Khan's employer, Parsons International Ltd., according to the source, who gave this reporter one of several copies reportedly held by police agents.

Khan, an executive, arrived in the country on May 1 on a business trip and stayed at the City Garden Hotel in Makati, said the source.

On his fifth day in the Philippines, Khan was abducted in the Glorietta mall, the source told this reporter.

Earlier that night, Khan made a call to his wife and children, who live in Malaysia.

Ransom

The kidnappers purportedly called the headquarters of Parsons International Ltd. in New York City and relayed their ransom demand of P10 million.

The company made several counteroffers but the kidnappers insisted on the original amount, according to the source.

The counteroffers stopped after Parsons International Ltd. in Manila received the tape with the scene of torture, and the company agreed to pay the P10 million, the source said.

Parsons International, according to a report by a Philippine National Police intelligence officer, even enlisted the services of a private security consulting firm to act as a go-between during the ransom pay-off and the hostage's release.

The P10 million plus an additional $150,000 was delivered to the New World Hotel in Makati City using a vehicle provided by the security firm, the report said.

The money was transferred to a waiting taxicab at the Pasay Road entrance of the hotel, it said.

The kidnappers used two luxury vehicles with blinkers to bring Khan to the same hotel and drop him off, the report continued.

The whole exchange lasted less than three minutes, according to a copy of a British Embassy report provided by the source.

Near airport

According to a report quoting Khan, who underwent a debriefing after his horrific ordeal, it took only 30 minutes by car to reach the hotel from the place where he was held hostage for more than two weeks.

Khan also reportedly said that he had the impression that he was kept in an area near an airport because he could hear the sounds of airplanes nearby.

He said that one of his abductors introduced himself using the name "June Gonzales," which the victim presumed to be an alias.

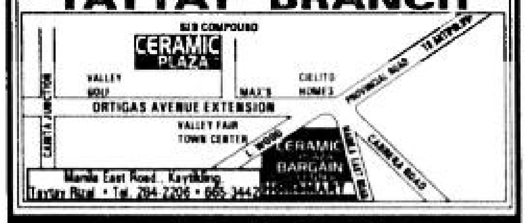
Khan reportedly said he suspected that his abductors could be policemen or ex-policemen because of the professional way they carried out the abduction and negotiated over ransom.

The British foreign office has advised against travel to parts of the Philippines, and has told Britons here to exercise extra caution.

In its website, it warns that three British nationals "have been kidnapped so far this year and held for periods up to three weeks."

"Kidnap gangs have used extreme violence against some victims and are increasingly targeting business figures and visitors throughout the Philippines, including Metro Manila and the business/entertainment district of Makati," according to the travel advisory.

Khan, for his part, said he has no plans of ever returning to the Philippines.



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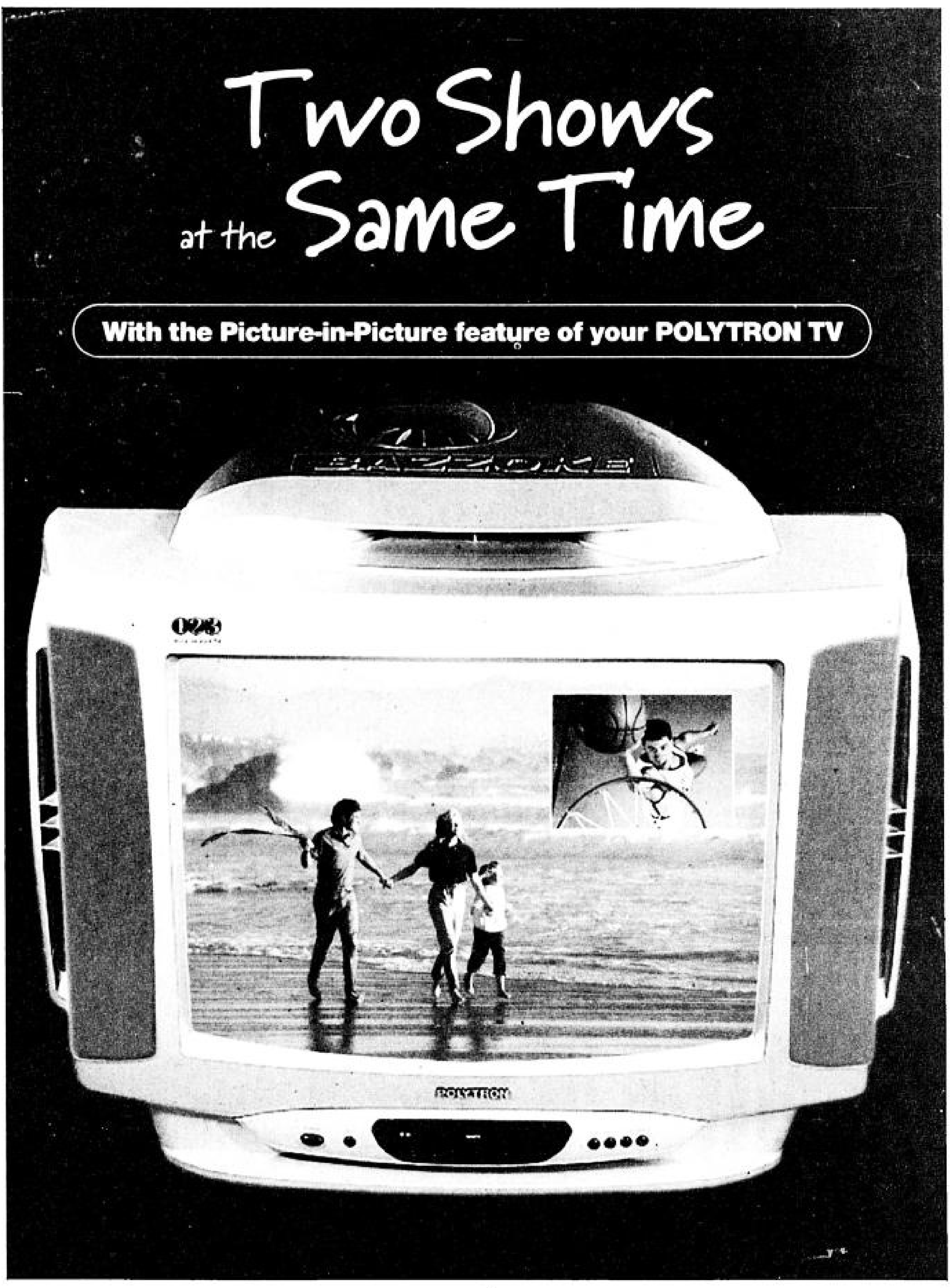

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TOSP 2001 AWARDS

A fresh and welcome news for everyone

Role models, campus achievers and community leaders. They are the best graduates of the year and, certainly, some of the country's brightest hopes for the future. News about their selection is certainly a refreshing and welcome respite from all the gloomy things we have been hearing and reading the past few months.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself met face to face with the nation's future leaders when she conferred the awards to the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) for 2001 during formal ceremonies in Malacanang Thursday afternoon. The President also gave the winners a cash prize of P20,000 each.

In her message, the President commended the RFM Foundation, the Rotary Club of Makati Central and National Bookstore for organizing the prestigious nationwide search. She said that by giving recognition to students who have exhibited academic excellence, exemplary leadership and strong moral values, the TOSP awards presents for emulation those outstanding students who have greatly contributed to national development and provides inspiration to others to attain excellence in all their endeavors.

RFM Foundation Chairman Jose Concepcion Jr., in presenting the outstanding students to the President, said: "It is my distinct honor to present to you and our people this year's outstanding students who dare to dream together of a Philippines where the Filipino lives in dignity, is empowered and is finally free from the shackles of poverty. Truly Yes, the Filipino can."

The President said the awardees will definitely play an invaluable role in shaping the character and destiny of our country.

President Arroyo's message to awardees: 'Be role models of hard work, excellence and service to our fellowmen.'

"To these hopes of the future, I say: Meet the challenges and seize the opportunities in life. And as you journey towards further achievement and leadership, your efforts must be dedicated to the betterment of our people and our nation. Be role models of hard work, excellence and service to our fellowmen," the President said.

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Bryan Christopher N. Que, De La Salle University; Alde Carlo P. Gavino, UP Manila; Ma. Teresa J. Galido, Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod; Rutchelle B. Enriquez, Leyte Normal University; and Alvin A. Lorenzo, Far Eastern University.

The TOSP search is an annual project of the RFM Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education, the Rotary Club of Manila Central, RFM Corporation and National Bookstore.

The TOSP 2001 board of judges was chaired by Dr. Mona Valisno, Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education, while the members are Ricardo Romulo, Chairman, Makati Business Club; Napoleon Rama, Publisher, Manila Bulletin; Luis Lorenzo Jr., CEO, Lapanday Holdings Corp.; Baltazar Endriga, President, Cultural Center of the Philippines; and Patricia Licuanan, President, Miriam College.

The judges were overwhelmed by the vision, commitment, community service and idealism of the finalists "by giving us a source of invigorating hope in this time when we are faced with so many problems and cynicism. We can now say that the future of this country is in secure hands."

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TEN OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES 2001

TOSP 2001 AWARDEES ARE ALSO WINNERS OFF-CAMPUS

They are not your typical nerds, although some are confessed bookworms. They spend as much time in their studies as with their community and other school activities. They enjoy the same things their peers love to do; they look and talk absolutely like anybody else.

What sets apart the winners of this year's search for the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) from the rest of the pack is what makes them winners in real life: they know what they want and know what to do to make it.

The 2001 TOSP awardees are also a cut above the rest when it comes to expressing themselves and in always initiating what needs to be done. They live fulfilled, albeit young lives, and it is reassuring to know that in their hands the future of this country lies.

Here are the 2001 TOSP awardees:

CHERYL G. UYNICKY
BS Management Information Systems
Ateneo de Manila University

A consistent dean's lister, a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems with summa cum laude honors, first dan taekwondo blackbelter, president of the Men's and Women's Varsity Taekwondo Team, a recipient of the Ambrosio Padilla Athlete of the Year Award. That's Cheryl G. Uynicky of Ateneo de Manila University.

You can call her Tots, and she calls her pet turtle Pagong. Cheryl is a voracious reader, a self-confessed hopeless romantic. She enjoys the TV show Jeopardy!, cross stitching, traveling. "Most of all, I love Christmas, the color blue, and rainy days."

During her student days, Cheryl used to commute to Payatas on weekends as part of her school's Apostolate program. As Apostolate Formation coordinator, she organized the Payatas Landslide Relief Operations and created videos and manuals to help introduce Payatas to new members. Her Area Processing Manual is now being used by other socially oriented groups in Ateneo.

KATHERINE D. FERNANDEZ
Bachelor of Music
University of the Philippines Diliman

Katherine Anne Victoria D. Fernandez graduated Valedictorian from the University of the Philippines (system-wide) last March 2001 with a grade point average of 1.117, the highest GPA among all graduates in the UP system for the year. She has a degree of Bachelor of Music, major in piano performance, with summa cum laude honors.

Among others, she was also a Gawad Chancellor Awardee and was selected as Outstanding Senior by the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, to which she was inducted into membership also this year.

Katherine has been giving solo piano recitals in various cultural venues in Metro Manila. She has likewise shared her musical talent by performing in various outreach concerts and fund-raisers. As a UP Pahinguhod Outreach Volunteer, she has performed for the inmates of the Quezon City Jail and the child cancer patients at the AFP Medical Center.

BAI AMELIA M. ABO
BS Civil Engineering
Notre Dame University
Cotabato City

Twenty-year old Bai Amelia M. Abo graduated cum laude, with a degree in Civil Engineering, from the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. A consistent honor student since grade school, Bai Amelia was also the recipient of the University Service Award when she graduated this year for her excellence in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

She became president of the College of Engineering Council when she was only in third year and eventually became president of the Supreme Student Government the following year. She was likewise elected president by the Notre Dame Students' Assembly covering the areas of Notre Dame in Marbel University, ND of Kidapawan College, ND of Jolo University, ND of Midsayap College, ND of Dadiangas and Notre Dame University for the school year 1999-2000.

Bai Amelia was involved in environmental and safety assistance programs in and out of the campus. She has also been recognized for the implementation of various socio-cultural activities in Parang, Maguindanao.

ALDE CARLO P. GAVINO
Medicine (INTARMED)
University of the Philippines Manila

Alde Carlo P. Gavino has always wanted to be a doctor. As a kid, he enjoyed playing doctor to his friends. He knew what he wanted and what he had to do to get it.

As one of the top qualifiers when he took the University of the Philippines College Admission Test, Carlo was offered to take UP's 7-year Integrated Liberal Arts Medicine (INTARMED) medicine program. He graduated class valedictorian, magna cum laude, last March.

After he passes the board examinations, he plans to train further in Family Practice and pursue a career in primary care where he thinks he can be of most help and service to his fellowmen. This early, he looks forward to putting up a business and retiring afterwards in the countryside, relaxing and sipping tea while watching the sun disappear in the horizon.

A very caring person, Carlo loves watching movies, reading magazines, and keeping himself fit. He also loves to sleep.

RUTCHELLE B. ENRIQUEZ
Bachelor of Secondary Education
Leyte Normal University

She is, according to people around her, the epitome of the phrase "small but terrible." For despite her petite frame, Rutchelle B. Enriquez stands out as a giant among her peers not only in her academic achievements but also in the many varied interests that she pursues with equal vigor and determination.

Rutchell earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education, major in physics and technology, from the Leyte Normal University in Tacloban with cum laude honors. As the university Student Regent, she pushed for the establishment of a Loan Assistance Program for Students that has benefited, through loans, hundreds of students in need of tuition and emergency money.

Awarded the Most Outstanding Student Leader by her school, Rutchelle also won gold medals in debate, extemporaneous speaking contest, quiz show and poster making. She loves to read magazines, write poetry, play table tennis, play the piano, guitar, flute and violin. She can also make electrical gadgets such as clap switches and light dimmers.

VANESSA ANN. C REMOQUILLO
AB Communication Arts
Ateneo de Davao University

Vanessa Ann C. Remoquillo, 20 years old, graduated class valedictorian with magna cum laude honors last March from the Ateneo de Davao University with a degree in Communication Arts.

Essa, as she calls herself, is the secretary general of the Samahang Mag-aaral ng Ateneo de Davao, the university student council, and regional organizer of the Habitat for Humanity YouthBuild program. She represents the country and the Asia-Pacific Region in the International Youth Foundation YouthActionNet Task Force, a global network that seeks to inspire, connect and nurture young leaders all over the world.

"I have an avid interest in books and films, and am a passionate writer," Essa says. "I am inspired by the random acts of kindness of anonymous people in this largely cynical world, and would wish to remain a firm believer that goodness lurks in the corners of our chapped souls." There.

VALARIE S. KU
BS Chemical Engineering
University of Santo Tomas

Although people always introduce Valarie S. Ku as the summa cum laude (Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, UST), the only child of a Chinese single parent prefers to downplay such achievement (The last UST chemical engineering summa cum laude was nine years ago).

"For me, the best thing I have done in this life was to have known, loved and served God," says Valarie. Her convictions have led her to learn "to love my father, forgive my mother, and serve God through my fellowmen. More importantly, I learned that in a way, I did hold my life in my hands."

Valarie confesses to her passion for books. She is also proud of the fact that she has founded the Parish Youth Council in their community. She also took pride in the role she played in the EDSA People Power II for being " a part of the move that changed the Filipino nation."

BRYAN CHRISTOPHER N. QUE
BS Civil Engineering
De La Salle University

Bryan Christopher Que received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from De La Salle University where he graduated magna cum laude. A member of the Jose Rizal Honors Society, he was also a recipient of the Brother Gabriel Cannon Award, DLSU's highest recognition for a graduate.

Aside from his academic focus, Bryan was an eager participant in various competitions in such varied fields as science and engineering, language, public speaking and debate. He was a member of the first and only Philippine team that qualified for the semifinals of the prestigious Hewlett-Packard Technology Quiz in Singapore.

His undergraduate thesis was awarded a gold medal and exhibited in the DOST Science and Technology Fair while a derivative paper had been accepted for publication in the Journal of Construction Engineering and Management of the American Society of Civil Engineers, perhaps the first from an undergraduate.

Bryan was also involved in youth empowerment activities and was active in the Habitat for Humanity program.

MA. TERESA J. GALIDO
BS Mathematics
Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod

"Dreaming is my first step to achieving. I will never just settle for less when I can dream and do more. That's why in everything I do, I give it my best shot."

And her best shot Ma. Teresa J. Galido did give during her quest for the TOSP award. A summa cum laude graduate of the Colegio San Agustin in Bacolod, majoring in Mathematics, Ma. Teresa likewise has tucked under her belt the school's Leadership Award and Journalism Award aside from the presidency of the Student Government.

On being chosen earlier as one of the Outstanding Students of Region VI, Ma. Teresa has this to say:"I am made to believe that that I have been a good example to the youth, that although people have lost hope because of the moral degradation our country suffers, I am still living to fight on."

The Math major says she is fascinated to see how numbers can be manipulated, just as the numbers manipulate other people.

ALVIN A. LORENZO
BS Biology
Far Eastern University-Manila

A natural-born campus leader, Alvin A. Lorenzo graduated cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in Biology, from the Far Eastern University this year. And, despite great financial stress, he is now pursuing a medical degree in FEU's Nicanor Reyes Faculty of Medicine through university and entrance scholarships.

Alvin was also chosen as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Students of FEU in his senior year, was president of the FEU Institute of Arts and Sciences Student Council, managing editor of the Bio-PT Society official student publication, and founder of the FEU-IAS Chorale Group, among others.

Most notable, however, was Alvin's deep sense of community and environmental awareness and involvement. He was an organizer of the ABS-CBN Bantay-Kalikasan Tree Planting Project at the La Mesa watershed, a volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity YouthBuild program, and a regional desk volunteer of the NAMFREL Quick Count in Mindanao during the last elections. He was likewise the FEU organizer of the Oust Erap Movement.

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TEN OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES 2001

TOSP 2001 AWARDEES ARE ALSO WINNERS OFF-CAMPUS

They are not your typical nerds, although some are confessed bookworms. They spend as much time in their studies as with their community and other school activities. They enjoy the same things their peers love to do; they look and talk absolutely like anybody else.

What sets apart the winners of this year's search for the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) from the rest of the pack is what makes them winners in real life: they know what they want and know what to do to make it.

The 2001 TOSP awardees are also a cut above the rest when it comes to expressing themselves and in always initiating what needs to be done. They live fulfilled, albeit young lives, and it is reassuring to know that in their hands the future of this country lies.

Here are the 2001 TOSP awardees:

CHERYL G. UYNICKY
BS Management Information Systems
Ateneo de Manila University

A consistent dean's lister, a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems with summa cum laude honors, first dan taekwondo blackbelter, president of the Men's and Women's Varsity Taekwondo Team, a recipient of the Ambrosio Padilla Athlete of the Year Award. That's Cheryl G. Uynicky of Ateneo de Manila University.

You can call her Tots, and she calls her pet turtle Pagong. Cheryl is a voracious reader, a self-confessed hopeless romantic. She enjoys the TV show Jeopardy!, cross stitching, traveling. "Most of all, I love Christmas, the color blue, and rainy days."

During her student days, Cheryl used to commute to Payatas on weekends as part of her school's Apostolate program. As Apostolate Formation coordinator, she organized the Payatas Landslide Relief Operations and created videos and manuals to help introduce Payatas to new members. Her Area Processing Manual is now being used by other socially oriented groups in Ateneo.

KATHERINE D. FERNANDEZ
Bachelor of Music
University of the Philippines Diliman

Katherine Anne Victoria D. Fernandez graduated Valedictorian from the University of the Philippines (system-wide) last March 2001 with a grade point average of 1.117, the highest GPA among all graduates in the UP system for the year. She has a degree of Bachelor of Music, major in piano performance, with summa cum laude honors.

Among others, she was also a Gawad Chancellor Awardee and was selected as Outstanding Senior by the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, to which she was inducted into membership also this year.

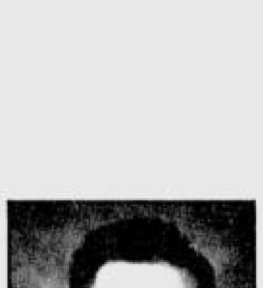
Katherine has been giving solo piano recitals in various cultural venues in Metro Manila. She has likewise shared her musical talent by performing in various outreach concerts and fund-raisers. As a UP Pahinguhod Outreach Volunteer, she has performed for the inmates of the Quezon City Jail and the child cancer patients at the AFP Medical Center.

BAI AMELIA M. ABO
BS Civil Engineering
Notre Dame University
Cotabato City

Twenty-year old Bai Amelia M. Abo graduated cum laude, with a degree in Civil Engineering, from the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. A consistent honor student since grade school, Bai Amelia was also the recipient of the University Service Award when she graduated this year for her excellence in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

She became president of the College of Engineering Council when she was only in third year and eventually became president of the Supreme Student Government the following year. She was likewise elected president by the Notre Dame Students' Assembly covering the areas of Notre Dame in Marbel University, ND of Kidapawan College, ND of Jolo University, ND of Midsayap College, ND of Dadiangas and Notre Dame University for the school year 1999-2000.

Bai Amelia was involved in environmental and safety assistance programs in and out of the campus. She has also been recognized for the implementation of various socio-cultural activities in Parang, Maguindanao.



ALDE CARLO P. GAVINO
Medicine (INTARMED)
University of the Philippines
Manila

Alde Carlo P. Gavino has always wanted to be a doctor. As a kid, he enjoyed playing doctor to his friends. He knew what he wanted and what he had to do to get it.

As one of the top qualifiers when he took the University of the Philippines College Admission Test, Carlo was offered to take UP's 7-year Integrated Liberal Arts Medicine (INTARMED) medicine program. He graduated class valedictorian, magna cum laude, last March.

After he passes the board examinations, he plans to train further in Family Practice and pursue a career in primary care where he thinks he can be of most help and service to his fellowmen. This early, he looks forward to putting up a business and retiring afterwards in the countryside, relaxing and sipping tea while watching the sun disappear in the horizon.

A very caring person, Carlo loves watching movies, reading magazines, and keeping himself fit. He also loves to sleep.

RUTCHELLE B. ENRIQUEZ
Bachelor of Secondary Education
Leyte Normal University

She is, according to people around her, the epitome of the phrase "small but terrible." For despite her petite frame, Rutchelle B. Enriquez stands out as a giant among her peers not only in her academic achievements but also in the many varied interests that she pursues with equal vigor and determination.

Rutchell earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education, major in physics and technology, from the Leyte Normal University in Tacloban with cum laude honors. As the university Student Regent, she pushed for the establishment of a Loan Assistance Program for Students that has benefited, through loans, hundreds of students in need of tuition and emergency money.

Awarded the Most Outstanding Student Leader by her school, Rutchelle also won gold medals in debate, extemporaneous speaking contest, quiz show and poster making. She loves to read magazines, write poetry, play table tennis, play the piano, guitar, flute and violin. She can also make electrical gadgets such as clap switches and light dimmers.

VANESSA ANN. C REMOQUILLO
AB Communication Arts
Ateneo de Davao University

Vanessa Ann C. Remoquillo, 20 years old, graduated class valedictorian with magna cum laude honors last March from the Ateneo de Davao University with a degree in Communication Arts.

Essa, as she calls herself, is the secretary general of the Samahang Mag-aaral ng Ateneo de Davao, the university student council, and regional organizer of the Habitat for Humanity YouthBuild program. She represents the country and the Asia-Pacific Region in the International Youth Foundation YouthActionNet Task Force, a global network that seeks to inspire, connect and nurture young leaders all over the world.

"I have an avid interest in books and films, and am a passionate writer," Essa says. "I am inspired by the random acts of kindness of anonymous people in this largely cynical world, and would wish to remain a firm believer that goodness lurks in the corners of our chapped souls." There.

VALARIE S. KU
BS Chemical Engineering
University of Santo Tomas

Although people always introduce Valarie S. Ku as the summa cum laude (Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, UST), the only child of a Chinese single parent prefers to downplay such achievement (The last UST chemical engineering summa cum laude was nine years ago).

"For me, the best thing I have done in this life was to have known, loved and served God," says Valarie. Her convictions have led her to learn "to love my father, forgive my mother, and serve God through my fellowmen. More importantly, I learned that in a way, I did hold my life in my hands."

Valarie confesses to her passion for books. She is also proud of the fact that she has founded the Parish Youth Council in their community. She also took pride in the role she played in the EDSA People Power II for being " a part of the move that changed the Filipino nation."

BRYAN CHRISTOPHER N. QUE
BS Civil Engineering
De La Salle University

Bryan Christopher Que received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from De La Salle University where he graduated magna cum laude. A member of the Jose Rizal Honors Society, he was also a recipient of the Brother Gabriel Cannon Award, DLSU's highest recognition for a graduate.

Aside from his academic focus, Bryan was an eager participant in various competitions in such varied fields as science and engineering, language, public speaking and debate. He was a member of the first and only Philippine team that qualified for the semifinals of the prestigious Hewlett-Packard Technology Quiz in Singapore.

His undergraduate thesis was awarded a gold medal and exhibited in the DOST Science and Technology Fair while a derivative paper had been accepted for publication in the Journal of Construction Engineering and Management of the American Society of Civil Engineers, perhaps the first from an undergraduate.

Bryan was also involved in youth empowerment activities and was active in the Habitat for Humanity program.

MA. TERESA J. GALIDO
BS Mathematics
Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod

"Dreaming is my first step to achieving. I will never just settle for less when I can dream and do more. That's why in everything I do, I give it my best shot."

And her best shot Ma. Teresa J. Galido did give during her quest for the TOSP award. A summa cum laude graduate of the Colegio San Agustin in Bacolod, majoring in Mathematics, Ma. Teresa likewise has tucked under her belt the school's Leadership Award and Journalism Award aside from the presidency of the Student Government.

On being chosen earlier as one of the Outstanding Students of Region VI, Ma. Teresa has this to say:"I am made to believe that that I have been a good example to the youth, that although people have lost hope because of the moral degradation our country suffers, I am still living to fight on."

The Math major says she is fascinated to see how numbers can be manipulated, just as the numbers manipulate other people.

ALVIN A. LORENZO
BS Biology
Far Eastern University-Manila

A natural-born campus leader, Alvin A. Lorenzo graduated cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in Biology, from the Far Eastern University this year. And, despite great financial stress, he is now pursuing a medical degree in FEU's Nicanor Reyes Faculty of Medicine through university and entrance scholarships.

Alvin was also chosen as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Students of FEU in his senior year, was president of the FEU Institute of Arts and Sciences Student Council, managing editor of the Bio-PT Society official student publication, and founder of the FEU-IAS Chorale Group, among others.

Most notable, however, was Alvin's deep sense of community and environmental awareness and involvement. He was an organizer of the ABS-CBN Bantay-Kalikasan Tree Planting Project at the La Mesa watershed, a volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity YouthBuild program, and a regional desk volunteer of the NAMFREL Quick Count in Mindanao during the last elections. He was likewise the FEU organizer of the Oust Erap Movement.

Quit or be fired, President warns millionaire execs

(From page A1)

ing Abu Sayyaf bandits to surrender or be crushed.

The President issued the warning following an INQUIRER report that her Memorandum Order No. 20, which orders a rationalization of the excessive salaries and benefits of top officials of GOCCs and GFIs, has met resistance from executives.

"If I am their appointing authority and they serve at my pleasure, if they cannot accept the cut in pay I am asking them to resign," the President replied when asked for the legal basis of her proposed pay cut.

Some executives doubt the legality of reducing the salary, citing the law against diminution of pay. Out of 72 GOCCs and GFIs, at least 14 were found to be exempt from or not following the 1989 Salary Standardization Law (SSL) and have set their own pay scale in their respective charters.

The senior executives of these GOCCs receive salaries and benefits ranging from a "low" of P691,760 to a high of P10.9 million a year. Their rank is equivalent to a department undersecretary, who receives a total of P630,000 a year in salary and benefits.

"I'm very thankful to Gary Teves who already said he's going to take the cut in pay. I hope the others can follow his example," the President said.

Teves, president of the Land Bank of the Philippines, receives P3.05 million a year.

GSIS GM resisting

But Winston Garcia, general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), insisted that salaries of top GSIS executives and managers could not be reduced by a mere order from Ms Macapagal.

"Not even the President (can order the paring down of salaries and benefits of its executives) because we are a government of law and not of men," Garcia said over dyLA in Cebu City.

GSIS is governed by its own charter and has a board of trustees as its policy making body, according to Garcia who is an appointee of Ms Macapagal.

He said he would write a letter to Ms Macapagal and to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to explain his reservations about the President's order.

Garcia, as GSIS general manager, has been reported to be the highest paid among the heads of GOCCs and GFIs. The DBM said he was getting a total of P6.5 million a year. In the entire government bureaucracy, he gets the biggest basic pay of P4.283 million.

But Garcia would not say how much he was being paid.

"I am in a quandary. I want to comply with (the President's order) but how will I do it in such a way that I will not be violating the law and the Constitution," he said.

Garcia said the authority to fix the compensation of GSIS executives rested on its board of trustees and not the President.

The President noted that some chairs, presidents and chief operating officers of the GOCCs and GFIs not covered by the SSL were earning more than P10 million a year, while vice presidents were getting a basic pay of P300,000 a month.

Children's allowance

She said a study by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) showed that, the GOCC and GFI executives were receiving benefits including transportation, representation, emergency and children's allowances.

"Compared with the private sector, these lucky executives of the GOCCs and GFIs are still getting while the middle managers in the government and the rank-and-file employees make do with their average pay," the President said.

She cited as example her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, who she said was earning P35,000 a month. The amount, she said, was much smaller than what Tiglao was receiving when he was still the Manila bureau chief of the Far Eastern Economic Review.

Observe austerity

The President said public officials ought to observe austerity in deference to ordinary citizens who can hardly afford to eat.

"We have to lead by example," she reiterated. "I take this opportunity to remind my fellow government officials that government service is public service."

One joins the government service not for self gain but to serve the country, according to Ms Macapagal.

"Let us not enrich ourselves in public service. The opportunity to serve in the government is an honor that should not be stained by materialism and personal gain," she said.

The President said she would not allow the senior executives of GOCCs and GFIs to continue receiving fat salaries and benefits in the face of widespread poverty in the country.

"Like my late father President Diosdado Macapagal, I consider frugality as an article of faith," she said.

"Let me repeat, public service is not for those who want to get rich at the expense of the taxpayer. If this is not acceptable, then he or she should resign," she said.

Cuts to save gov't P500 million

The President said the government would save about P500 million if the pay of the GOCC executives were cut.

Ms Macapagal said that more than impressing foreign creditors, it was important for the government to attain a good financial state so that it could help alleviate the plight of the poor.

"Most of all, we in government have to show our people that we are ready to sacrifice for the people. We have to show our willingness to tighten our belts for the sake of our poor countrymen," she said.

No to arbitrary cuts

In Cebu City, Garcia said the GSIS charter provided that the pay scale of its officials and employees should be comparable with that received by their counterparts in the private sector.

A cut in the salary of GSIS officers starting from the executive vice president down to its managers will also violate Civil Service laws because they are career service officers and their compensation scales cannot just be reduced arbitrarily, according to Garcia.

The law even provides that salary is a "proprietary right, especially for career service officers," he said.

"How can we reduce (their salaries) when it is already a right vested in them?" he asked.

Garcia said all of the officers of GSIS—an executive vice president, nine senior vice presidents and 150 managers—were receiving salaries "in accordance with the law."

Garcia also maintained that the salaries received by GSIS executives would not affect the coffers of the national government because the GSIS was not receiving any fund for operations from the national budget and was not required to contribute to the national budget.

"This means that GSIS is self-liquidating. The budget of the GSIS does not depend on the national budget. It does not contribute to the national budget and has no impact on the deficit—positively or negatively," Garcia said.

He also maintained that the high salaries of GSIS executives would prevent them from engaging in graft and corruption. In fact, he said, he was proud to say that there was no corruption in the GSIS.

Garcia suggested that salaries of all government workers be upgraded to a level that would enable them to resist engaging in corrupt practices.

Family . . .

(From page A1)

were the "conflicting versions" that reached them as to how their father really died.

On Potenciano's side are Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, Maximo and Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner.

The other Ilusorio children—Marietta, Shereen and Ramon—have sided with their mother.

The family feud exploded in public with a series of criminal complaints, counter-charges, and custody suits that even reached the Supreme Court. At the crux of the legal war was the issue of whether Erlinda had the right to live with her husband, Potenciano, whom she claimed was being kept away from her by some of their children.

One version

One version Marietta heard from family friends, was that their dying father was rushed from Lipa, Batangas, to the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City at 6 a.m. Thursday, and that he was still alive when he got there but died shortly, thereafter.

Potenciano was then staying at a farmhouse owned by Sylvia's estranged husband, Aying Yap.

Another version is that Potenciano was declared dead on arrival at the hospital, but they (the mother's side) learned this not from the hospital itself but from the records of the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque, which stated that Potenciano was cremated at 10 a.m. on the same day.

The MMP document—an authorization to cremate the remains—was signed by his children Sylvia and Maximo.

"Now they don't even want to give the ashes of my father to my mother," Marietta lamented.

Marietta also said her mother has also asked the NBI to help her secure the remains of her husband.

"But we were told by the NBI that the other side wants to negotiate over this," she said.

NBI officials contacted by the INQUIRER confirmed Erlinda Ilusorio's request and added that she also wanted the agency to investigate the real cause of his death.

According to the official, the widow's camp wanted the remains secured so that she and her children could pay their last respects.

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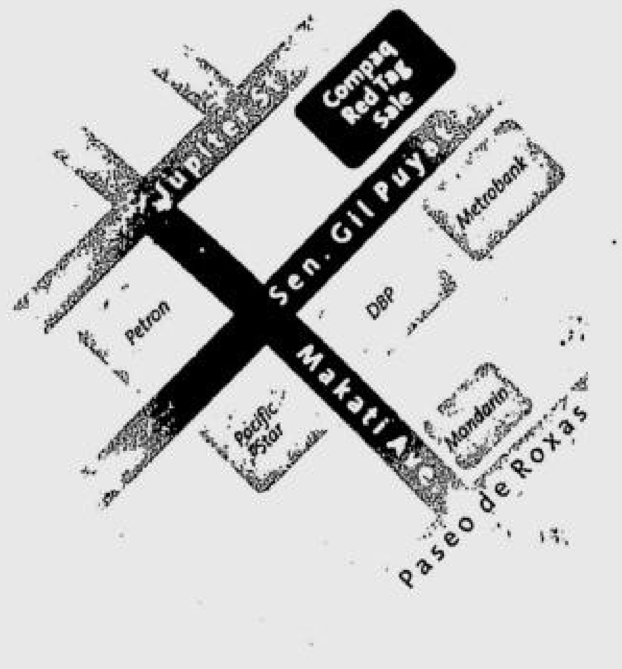

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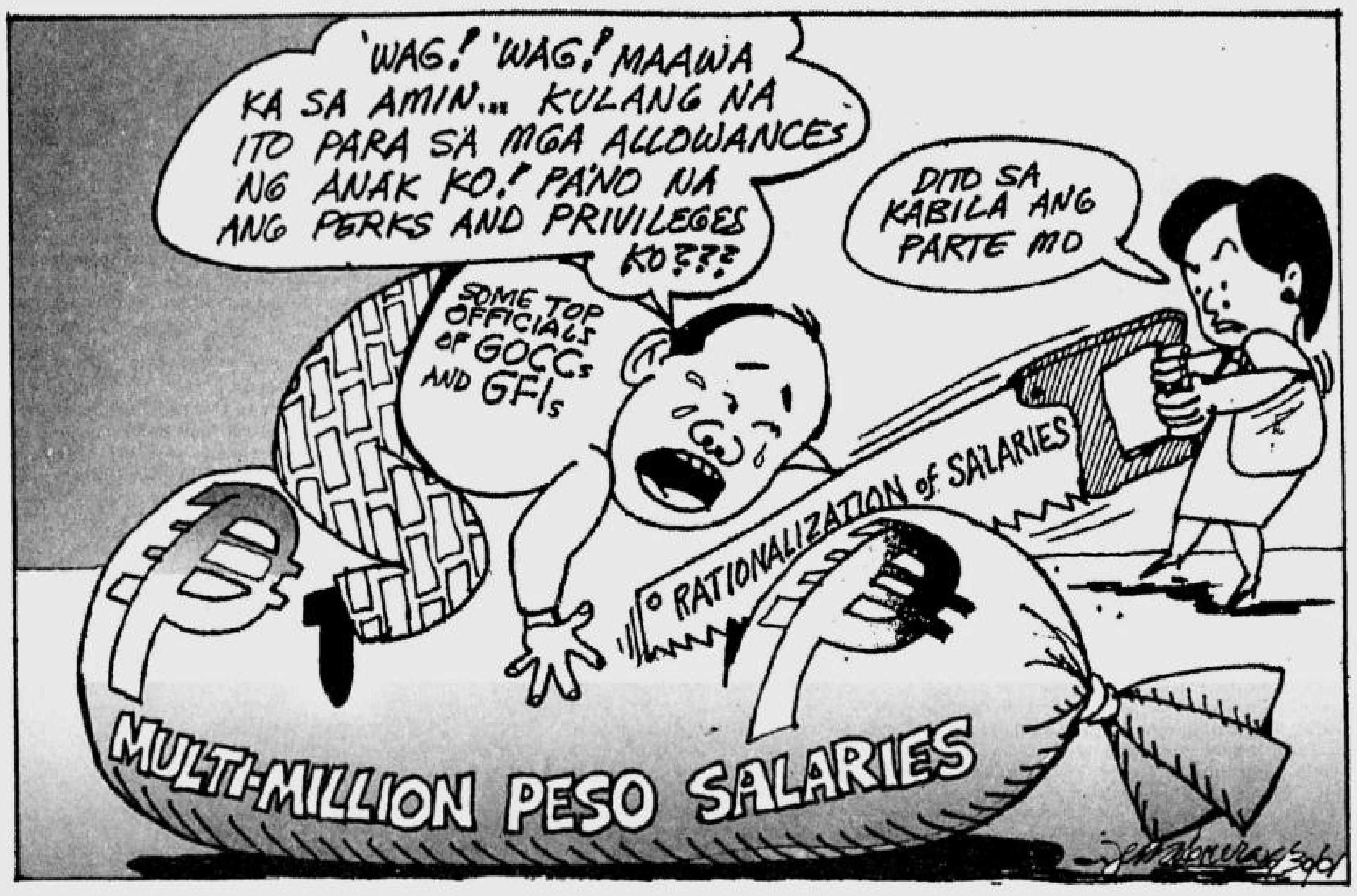

'WAG! 'WAG! MAAWA KA SA AMIN... KULANG NA ITO PARA SA MGA ALLOWANCES NG ANAK KO! PA'NO NA ANG PERKS AND PRIVILEGES KO???
SOME TOP OFFICIALS OF GOCCs AND GFIs
DITO SA KABILA ANG PARTE MO
RATIONALIZATION of SALARIES
MULTI-MILLION PESO SALARIES

Strategy of delay

EDITORIAL

WHEN the lawyers for deposed President Joseph Estrada won last Monday a postponement to July 10 of the arraignment of their client on plunder charges, they were so ecstatic that they sang "My Happiness."

They have a good reason to be joyful. The postponement was another small victory in their apparent strategy of delaying the trial. One of the lawyers, Raymond Fortun, has told the press that he expected the trial to run for as long as five years.

Delaying the trial indefinitely as a defense strategy is anchored on the hope that by May 2004, there will be a new government that is more friendly with Estrada and therefore more inclined to cut a deal with him, leading to a whitewash of the case. From this point of view, delay makes sense.

Lawyers, especially those defending Estrada, can't be denied moments of relaxation, including celebrating small victories with songs. For every favorable ruling the defense can squeeze from the trial, there's an opportunity to make fun of the judicial process, which they are squeezing dry to raise obstacles to a speedy trial.

One increasingly wonders whether Estrada is at all interested in the early resolution of the criminal charges laid against him. The history of Estrada's defense since Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson of Ilocos Sur accused him of taking bribes from illegal gambling operators has been to avoid confronting the allegations on the merits.

The impeachment trial in the Senate in December-January would have been the opportunity for Estrada to answer the four articles of impeachment but the defense's strategy was to prevent the trial from reaching the stage when he would have to give answers to specific charges. Thus, at the beginning of the trial, the first thing his lawyers did was to file a motion to quash the articles, on the grounds that Speaker Manuel Villar hurriedly referred the articles to the Senate by taking legal shortcuts. The presiding officer of the trial, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, turned down the motion, with the result that evidence was received by the Senate acting as an impeachment tribunal.

Still, Estrada evaded confronting the charges when his lawyers and allies in the Senate blocked the opening of an envelope handed over by Equitable PCI Bank, containing records of a secret account in the name of Jose Velarde, Estrada's alias, worth more than P1.2 billion. The suppression of the evidence precipitated the failure of the trial and sparked the people power demonstration that led to Estrada's ouster.

It would appear from the pattern of the trial that Estrada never wanted to confront the charges squarely. The filing of the plunder and perjury charges in the Sandiganbayan after his ouster should have been another opportunity for him to, at last, come to grips with the charges.

The defense's dilatory strategy denies Estrada the opportunity to clear himself. It seems that Estrada and his lawyers do not want to take the risk of having the cases decided because the cost could be too high since conviction is a big possibility. Thus, preventing the cases from being decided on their merits is an approach well-suited to attain this objective.

Last Wednesday, Estrada did not enter a plea of guilty or not guilty to the charge of perjury. His lawyers argued that the prosecution did not prepare its case with clarity, causing confusion over what offense Estrada was being charged with.

This move sent the message that Estrada does not recognize the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan. But it is just the most recent among a series of acts and pronouncements brushing aside court decisions, including the Supreme Court ruling that he had vacated the presidency and that his successor is holding office legally. Up until today, Estrada has refused to bow to the Supreme Court decision, and with increasing isolation, he has clung to the forlorn view that he is still the president.

In the May 1 rebellion, the hordes that stormed the presidential palace demanded the removal of President Macapagal and the restoration of Estrada to the presidency. The rebellion was an attempt to resolve the issue of his guilt or innocence of plunder and corruption by political means.

Delay built upon delay in the trial keeps the stigma of corruption hanging unresolved over Estrada's head. By now he should have realized that there's no way for him to be cleared of the charges except through a court trial. If he wants to clear his name, Estrada should tell his lawyer to drop all the motions and objections that have no other purpose except to stop the wheel of justice from turning.

A nation in travail

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHILE the nation continues to be transfixed by the aberration going on in Basilan, many other serious problems besetting us are further deteriorating the image and condition of our country. The Macapagal administration appears to be "trying hard" but unfortunately without notable success. It is well into its fifth month but the state of our affairs, far from improving, is steadily worsening.

Five months are concededly short for the present administration to perform miracles after the shambles to which Estrada has reduced our country. But the people had expected some quickening of confidence at least in the resolve of the new government to rectify the abuses committed by the deposed president during his aborted misrule.

Instead, the prosecutors have dilly-dallied in going against the guilty parties, with the Office of the Ombudsman filing cases and then, curiously, withdrawing them. The Department of Justice is playing cat-and-mouse with some potential state witnesses, including Mark Jimenez, whose extradition to the United States is still on hold. Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte, key figures in the Chavit Singson exposé, have flown the coop and are claiming to be political fugitives entitled to asylum.

President Macapagal herself has been unduly lenient to her deposed predecessor. She first ordered special quarters for him at Laguna after he complained of the premises at Camp Crame where he was originally detained. Then, to further please him, she readily decided—without clearance from the Sandiganbayan—to construct an annex in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for his more comfortable confinement. Only widespread objection to this unauthorized privilege cut short the construction that had already begun.

For its part, the Sandiganbayan, in according special courtesies to the former president, has extended them to Jinggoy Estrada by virtue of his being the son of his father. He does not by himself alone deserve such treatment because of his minor status as a municipal mayor. The court even exceeded its generosity when it allowed him a five-day liberty so he could attend to his files as if they were state papers. Jinggoy repaid the permission by violating its conditions and complaining that the period was too short.

I suggested in a previous column that the special treatment of Estrada as a former president was uncalled for because it was he himself who had dishonored his office. Moreover, allowing Jinggoy to hitch-hike on his father's privileges would violate the equal protection clause, which ordains that persons and things similarly situated should be treated alike, without discrimination or preference. But these protests—not mine alone but of many others—were unavailing.

On the strength of the Jinggoy precedent, Romeo Jalosjos can claim his own leave from jail to attend to some records he may have left in his office in Congress. Others similarly situated may now or in the future demand the same questionable privilege. Erap himself could be among them and assert the right to go back to Malacañang to study his own documents.

Meanwhile, crime grows apace, encouraged by the success of the Abu Sayyaf in amassing millions of pesos in ransom for its hostages. Not to be outdone, some men in police uniforms, complete with weapons and handcuffs, staged their own derring-do kidnapping in broad daylight in Quezon City three weeks ago. The reported take was a cool P10 million (one paper said P50) immediately paid by the magnate father for the release of his captive daughter.

The whole country is becoming a frontier town, with guns blazing at law and order. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, like fellow "investigator" Rolando Abadilla during the Marcos regime, was recently ambushed in what the NPA owned as its execution for his past offenses. The MILF has joined the rampage, and even some independent operators have tried their luck, often successfully. The diversion of police and military attention to Mindanao has activated the rest of the underworld elsewhere. Malacañang insists, however, albeit without much credibility, that the crime rate has gone down.

To make matters worse, prices continue to rise—of gasoline, of electricity, of water, of commodities in general. On a personal note, even the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. is suing to increase the toll rates at the Merville exit along the South Superhighway. If its petition is granted, we will have to pay, instead of the current charge of P10.50, which is onerous enough, the sum of P35 every time we pass through the exit to reach our houses. All subdivisions up to the Bicutan exit will be similarly oppressed by the threatened imposition.

The peso, the barometer of our economy, continues to weaken vis-à-vis the US dollar. As of this writing, it had exceeded the P52 mark, and it could keep dipping by the hour. The poverty line is rising with the cost of living. Tourism has fallen flat on its face with our growing notoriety as a hotbed of criminals. Foreign visitors remember the Philippines as a mammoth skid row, with trash mounting in every corner of Metro Manila, the showplace of the country.

No wonder the voters have turned to some ignoramuses to lead them out of the morass. Their point is that if the so-called educated class has not done much for them, perhaps the new breed of illiterate politicians can do better. Nonsense. If those who have training and learning have so far failed, how can they expect the inept and uneducated to succeed? Look what happened to us during Estrada's short reign. Their kind of reasoning does not consider the dangers of jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

It seems our only hope is not from the government but from Heaven. The trouble, though, is that the prayers of the so-called religious leaders, with their sanctimonious amens and hallelujahs, can never reach the ears of the Almighty. High priests who sell their favors to the highest bidder, as during the last elections, can only lead us to the other realm, where they can be heard loud and clear.

Voice for children in court

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

ONE of the perennial problems of the Philippine justice system is the slow disposition of cases of children who run in conflict with the law. This is partly due to the lack of social workers to assist children in court. Without the support of social workers in the preparation of reports and the monitoring of cases, judges are not able to make informed and just decisions on cases involving child offenders.

The available social workers are not enough to assist the growing number of children in our jails and detention centers. In the Manila Youth Reception Center (MYRC), for instance, only five social workers assist close to 200 youth offenders whose cases are being tried in court. Each child may have several cases, each of which requires the same amount of attention from the social workers. These social workers, though very much committed to their jobs, can only do so much. They urgently need help in facilitating the needs of children, especially in court-related proceedings.

The courts have not been deaf to the outcry of social workers and child rights advocates over the slow disposition of the cases of children who violate the law. A special project has been launched involving ordinary people from the community who care about children and who wish to assist children who are accused of crimes. They have been tapped to assist the court in the speedy disposition of the children's cases in order to uplift the disheartening condition of children in the jails and detention centers. Thus, the CASA/GAL project was launched early this year.

CASA/GAL stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate/ Guardian Ad Litem. CASA/GALs are volunteers from the community who are assigned to a case by a judge. Each volunteer works on one case, helping one child at a time.

As volunteers assisting youth offenders in court, CASA/GALs are required to conduct investigations on the background of the children's cases. They are tasked with reviewing pertinent documents and interviewing everyone who knows about the case, including the child.

CASA/GAL volunteers determine how the needs of children can be met and what resources are available to help them. If a child needs to be referred to a child-caring institution/agency for rehabilitation or treatment, the volunteers make the necessary arrangements.

CASA/GALs plead the cases of the children even during mediation. Bearing in mind the best interest of the child, the volunteers are required to submit reports to the court to enable the judge to make an informed decision.

Monitoring the case of the child is also an important responsibility of a CASA/GAL volunteer. If the court orders that a child and/or the child's family be provided counseling or any form of intervention, the volunteer sees to that this order is carried out.

What does it take to be a CASA/GAL volunteer? The CASA/GAL's role is to represent the best interest of the child. A volunteer therefore must be child sensitive and must be ready to commit to helping the child. This commitment may mean assisting the child for at least a period of one year. CASA/GALs must possess good communication skills to effectively relate with social workers, lawyers, school officials or with angry parents/complainants. They must be objective in their assessments and must be self-confident especially when speaking in the courtroom on behalf of the child's best interest.

Though no legal experience is required to be a CASA/GAL, volunteers are required to undergo special training to help them perform their responsibilities effectively. During the training, recruits are oriented with regard to laws affecting youth offenders, the judicial process, child development, child abuse and neglect and interviewing techniques.

The first CASA/GAL trainors' training seminar was sponsored by Unicef and the Ateneo Human Rights Center on April 23-26, 2001 in Makati. Forty participants from various NGOs and GOs attended the training. The seminar aimed to equip the participants with knowledge and skills to become effective CASA/GAL trainors. A follow-up training session will be conducted in July, this time to train volunteers in the communities.

A CASA/GAL volunteer is a powerful voice for a child in court. It is hoped that with the training of more CASA/GALs in the communities, children languishing in the jails can expect a speedier disposition of their cases and get the assurance of support from the community.

Juan Carlos eager to invite GMA to Madrid

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A LOT of comments have been made about the fact that while the police and Armed Forces were fully prepared for any possible threat from deposed President Estrada's loyalists last Wednesday, when he was arraigned at the Sandiganbayan for a perjury charge, no trouble materialized as only a handful of loyalists showed up. Bad weather had a lot to do with it, but some commentators also opined that the pro-Erap sentiment appears to be on the wane—to flare up gain only if it's fueled by a billion pesos. What few know, however, is that the Cabinet spouses also made a preemptive move that day. They fanned out to the traditional bastions of Erap support that had delivered huge crowds for Erap in those rallies at the end of April and for the May 1 assault on Malacañang. These were Payatas, Smokey Mountain and Montalban, Rizal. The spouses stayed the whole day in these areas, and with the help of the barangay people, they distributed relief bags and conducted getting-to-know-you programs that featured raffles with pedicabs, small gas ranges, sewing machines and other livelihood items as major prizes. They also sponsored medical missions, and in Smokey Mountain they doled out start-up capital of P1,000 to each livelihood graduate. The residents were naturally all agog and stayed for the goodies, though one spectator commented, "*Ginwardiyahan ang mga tao sa mga* areas *na iyon.*"

* * *

Of course it helped very much that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was celebrating his birthday that day, providing a good reason for the gift-giving by the spouses who represented him. Arroyo had earlier arranged the visits, but when Mayon Volcano erupted, he had to fly to Legazpi City. Barangay officials now acknowledge, some grudgingly, that this administration is learning how to win the poor. In fact, some barangay people told the spouses that President Macapagal wouldn't have received a hostile reception from the Smokey Moutain folks had her visit been coordinated with them.

* * *

I sat in at the recent hearing called by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez on the Mehan Gardens issue. It was a good decision of Alvarez to call both the environmentalists and conservationists, and representatives of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to the hearing as the issues were ventilated there. At the end of the hearing, Alvarez ordered the suspension of construction activities at the historic site of old Chinese trading and later Manila's botanical garden. He also summoned the parties to another meeting this Wednesday to thresh out the issues. It was difficult for Atienza's technocrats to argue against the conservationists who were mostly impassioned, articulate women. A young lawyer from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Trixie Angeles, was especially articulate.

* * *

Listening to both sides, I noted that the Manila city ordinance converting a large part of the Mehan Gardens into the permanent site of the City College of Manila and other portions of it into a commercial parking area was approved as early as June 30, 2000, exactly a year ago. In fact, work has begun on the parking area. But the environmental and historic issues are only being discussed now. The conservationists said they only came to know about the city's plans recently.

There ought to be a law requiring full publicity on the proposed conversion of old historic landmarks. Such projects should be coordinated by all agencies of government, not just one, which, in this case is the city government.

* * *

I have been regularly publicizing each segment of the lecture series that is at the heart of the diamond jubilee celebration of the Carmelite convent on Gilmore, Quezon City. The Carmelite Jubilee lectures, which began last November 2000 and last up to this November, are given by distinguished religious and secular personalities at leading colleges and universities in Metro Manila. The series was put together by an executive committee headed by former UP president Jose Abueva with Ruben Balane and Fr. Arnold Boehme, OCD, as members (Jaime Cardinal Sin is the honorary chair). Because the lectures were suspended during the summer vacation, two of them will be held in July. On July 11, the lecture will be given by former Naga City Mayor and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Jesse Robredo who will speak on "Participatory Governance" at the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, at 10 a.m. On July 18, Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., will speak on "Christology: The Sacred Humanity of Christ," at the Ateneo de Manila University at 10 a.m. The public is cordially invited.

* * *

The series will feature other distinguished speakers in the next few months, but this early we can perhaps disclose that the 12th speaker who will close the series on Nov. 24 will be a prominent Nigerian churchman, Francis Cardinal Arinze, who heads the Pontifical Council on Inter-Religious Dialogue at the Vatican. Arinze, who travels all over the world speaking on this subject, will lecture on "Rejoicing in the Catholic Faith." The arrival here of this Church authority on inter-religious dialogue is timely in the light of Pope John Paul II's well-publicized efforts to reach out to various religious groups, such as very recently, the head of the Jewish faith in the Ukraine. Readers, take note.

* * *

A few of us INQUIRER people, led by publisher Isagani Yambot, recently were invited to lunch by the new Spanish ambassador, Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja, at his residence and it was delightful. Pantoja, a Sevillan who dabbled in theater directing before joining the Spanish foreign ministry, is a man of quick wit and easy humor. In fact, he was quite *kalog*, as we Pinoy's would put it, as he related his experiences here since he arrived last February. We found particularly hilarious his experiences as guest of the multi-faceted Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, but you must ask for the details from Pantoja if you ever run into him. We were told that his remarks were off the record.

* * *

The envoy told us that Spanish King Juan Carlos is hoping that President Macapagal will make Spain a priority in her first foreign visits. "Bring the President here," was the king's instruction before the ambassador left for Manila. Pantoja pointed out that the Philippines is dear to the king's heart, reminding us that Juan Carlos spent his honeymoon here with Queen Sophia in the 1960s. Ms Macapagal, who speaks fluent Spanish, has agreed to visit Madrid next year. *(To be continued)*

Toilet humor(?)

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I MUST confess that I have yet to see the television ad for a well-known brand of toilet paper that has sparked a baby-firestorm over its "offensive" contents. A report in last Monday's issue of this paper says the city council of Gen. Santos City has passed a resolution demanding that the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the self-regulating body of local broadcasters, stop the airing of commercials for Joy bathroom tissue. The resolution also asks business establishments in GenSan to "immediately cease and desist from selling Joy bathroom tissue."

What's got the good councilors of GenSan so riled up against a bathroom tissue ad? What have they got against bathroom tissue, anyway?

From what we read in the report, the councilors are protesting what they deem as the commercial's implication that people in rural areas don't know how to use bathroom tissue or even know what bathroom tissue is for. The news report describes the commercial as "(showing) a woman alighting from the bus, running to a rice field and squatting to answer the call of nature." This tragi-comic scene is made all the "funnier" by the playing of a "catchy" jingle that, translated into English, goes: "In the fields there is no paper (or bathroom tissue), so just rub it against the paddies." (*Pilapil*, if you must know, really refers to the low earthen dikes that intersect rice paddies, but that hardly makes for a "catchy" jingle translation.)

Four days later, this paper sought to extend the "controversy's" shelf life by publishing the reaction of the executive director of a Baguio-based gender rights group. The GenSan resolution, she said, was "ill-advised" because the TV spot merely tried to use humor to put a point across. "The council should have attacked commercials that use women to sell a product. Naked or scantily clad women truly harm and injure...Filipino women."

* * *

LYN Madalang may have a point, but I'm in the mood to discuss this "national problem" of lack of toilet facilities for the country's provincial commuters. I don't know if bus conductors plying the Pangasinan and Ilocos routes still do this, but when I was a child, a bus trip to and from Pangasinan was often interrupted by the conductor yelling, "Isbooooh!" Immediately, the bus would lurch to a stop, disgorging passengers who magically disappeared into the roadside foliage, where they presumably rubbed their backsides against the *pilapil*.

A favorite family story, told over and over again when everybody's in a good mood, concerns an aunt who had to answer "the call of nature" by the roadside, but found to her dismay that she had nothing to wipe herself with. Searching through her bag, she found a letter written by her housemaid to her mother in the province. My aunt quickly read through the letter, then used the paper to clean up. Later, she called for the housemaid's mother and relayed the daughter's message to her.

So if we're talking of social realities and necessities here, I'd say the marketers of Joy bathroom tissue have hit upon a real, uhhm, gut issue.

* * *

BUT the Joy bathroom tissue ad is really just the latest in what I see as an alarming trend of advertisers breaching the unspoken and unwritten barrier against toilet humor. I don't know where it started. Maybe with the anti-diarrhea tablet that showed a man fidgeting on the witness stand, beads of sweat running down his temple, while onlookers speculated: "*Mukhang* guilty!" Or another ad that purported to show the different "dance steps" that someone trying to put a hold on the runs is forced to perform.

These were the height of refinement, though, compared to the ad for a bathroom freshener that showed a young boy seated on the "throne" and making a face at the foul odor he was emitting. Or what about that ad for a cleanser that showed another boy frantically searching for a toilet, but repulsed by the (presumably) execrable conditions of those he finds? Another ad for the same product shows children dropping food on the floor and on the kitchen counter, then confidently picking up the edibles and putting them in their mouths, just because the surfaces had been wiped clean with the product.

I tell you, it's so hard to be a parent and teach children good habits, these days. Just today, I heard on the radio a man singing an ode to "poo-poopoopoo-poo-poo." And it wasn't so long ago when I heard "wee-wee" as part of a song extolling a brand of disposable diapers.

* * *

PLEASE don't get me wrong. I enjoy a green or even brown joke as much as the next person. And I don't think it's a sign of creeping old age. I would have been offended by these ads at 16, 26, 36, 46, 56, or 66.

Why do I consider them offensive? Because they betray a decided lack of creativity on the part of their creators, a lazy mindset that prefers to go for the easy humor and the in-your-face image, rather than to search for palatable and pleasant ways to present the slimy realities of life. I know, we all have to go to the bathroom every day of our miserable lives. And what goes on in there is not exactly stuff for "Sesame Street" or "Batibot." So do we need to be reminded of our excretory activities while we're relaxing in front of the TV? While driving to work?

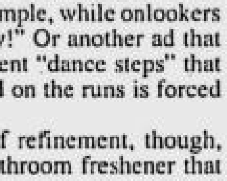
We live in a more casual age, I know. And the social niceties that once stifled individuality and suffocated relationships have become passe. And we all do need to use bathroom tissue.

Which is precisely my point. In the battle for brand loyalty, even for toilet paper, consumer affection will not be won simply by reminding us that excretion is a part of life. That part we'd rather forget. I'd rather be told my ass will end up smelling like a field of clover after I use this bathroom tissue. Baloney, I know, but who ever said there was truth in advertising?

Reactions to cultural depredations

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



LIKE I said, fat chance the Manila mayor cares what non-voters think of his edifice complex. He's won his popularity contest. He's got three years to make hay and he's only just begun. Since no court has slapped him with a temporary retraining order or sued him, as Manolo Quezon suggested, he should be home free. Maybe he can pick up where Lito Banayo left off and adopt the infamous Boardwalk as his own flagship project.

In the meantime, Filipinos overseas with access to the local news e-mailed some comments. Here is Bob Gabuna's reaction:

"I am an expat residing in Canada. Perhaps, there is a way to encourage the mayor of Manila to visit select cities in North America and Europe, and see for himself the green scenery and open spaces not only for aesthetic reasons but for health, as well. Maybe, when he returns home, he might gain some fresh insight about the whole matter.

"It is truly sad when elective officials cannot demonstrate leadership in running governmental affairs. My question is, why do the people keep on placing them in the seat of power when they are *bobo* and *tanga*?"

Well, I'm pretty sure the mayor has traveled extensively since he joined government. I seriously doubt, however, from his actions that the open spaces and the greenery in England, for instance, made any impression on him. As for the rhetorical question, I think the adjectives are wrong. It's not the politicians who are forced to emigrate to find decent employment. The correct adjectives to describe them are however libelous.

Dodoy who lives in the United States and describes himself as "a nature lover," writes: "The first thing I noticed here in the States when I first came were the tall trees around the city and parks. Thousands of parks with walking and biking trails. *Nagtataka ako. Tayo na* tropical country with all-year-round good weather with all kinds of trees and flowers, *bakit parang basura ang mukha ng* cities *natin*? *Sayang 'yung mga* narra trees *sa gitna ng* Edsa. *Pinutol dahil sa* MRT. Was it worth it?

"*Binaboy na ng mga pulitiko ang bansa natin*. They used the poor (*masa*) to achieve their political ambitions. *Ang importante manalo sa* election. Instead of educating the people, these politicians encourage the mis-education of the masses to gain their support. *Nakakalungkot*."

Basically, these are middle-class reactions and perceptions. So politicians aren't really interested since that segment of society has been so marginalized, it doesn't count come election time. Problem is, it is not in the interest of politicians to have a middle class large enough to make a difference.

Next we hear from Joe Ligaya who has a creative solution, although I think the Chinese community has long used it but not quite in the same guise or for the same motives. And some form of PAC must have been at work during Edsa I and II.

Ligaya believes that "the possibility lies in the PAC—the political action committee. I'm sure you are aware of this 'game,' where the PAC is created and funded by a motley group of like-minded individuals (or companies) and they direct their funds to support the candidates who are receptive to their interests and make 'informative' ads to highlight the weaknesses of others.

"So a Save-the-Mehan-Gardens PAC may be from Makati or Balete Drive or Ayala Alabang, but surely ABS-CBN will still take the money and run TV and radio ads to spread the message. Likewise the corner printing press will accept the order to print the ads, and the PAC can allocate a few more pesos for the flyers to get distributed to the voters.

"A sufficiently funded PAC just may have prevented the Jalosjos reelection.

"A sufficiently funded PAC just may have tipped the elections that (with a margin of 700 votes) now allow Mark Jimenez to vote where Claro M. Recto voted.

"Money against money. This can be a PAC with a conscience, using money to air a message in its goal of thwarting an unconscionable candidate that distributes money on election day only to garner the votes whether these voters agreed with his position(s) or not. PAC...a pandora's box."

In answer, I would suggest you log on to Jaime Licauco's Web page where he departs from his usual psychic discussions and comments on present-day realities and reaches the conclusion that the greatest enemy of the Filipino is not the politician but himself.

Licauco writes: "The Filipino people have 'a genius' for stupidity. It takes genius, for example, to elevate an inveterate drunkard, gambler, womanizer, liar and a school dropout with a questionable intelligence to the highest position in the government and yet expect him to run the country well.

"We have imposed the trappings of Western democracy on an Asian people who are not ready for it, who do not have the mental make-up, the heart, the will and the attitude to implement or to carry it through. So we have compromised by calling our political system a democracy and putting in place all its structures and outer shell but without the substance and the internal discipline which alone will make it work in reality."

The article is too long to reproduce but I think you get the general idea. It's not a pleasant thought, this idea that we had better take a long hard look at our own shortcomings. Without an honest appraisal of our faults, we will hardly be able to effect a change and may as well look forward to decades of various clones of Erap, Lito, Vic, Joey, Romy, etc., etc.

Coming of age

YOUNGBLOOD

Dennis Torrecampo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE SIGNS are there: the extra lines on my face that some say add character to it. (Yeah, right!) And while they're adding, I'm losing hair, and again some say it makes for a more refined profile. (As if it helps.)

After facing the facts of growing up, I'm now growing old. But it does have its benefits: I am now being taken more seriously as if those wrinkles are badges of many experiences and the receding hairline is a mark of success. Doesn't the world just surprise you sometimes?

So I'm officially old because of my age and all these remarkably damning signs. Truth is, the world just seems to be moving too fast and I didn't notice it. (Denial. Denial.)

But they say you've really grown up if you've learned something special every step of the way. In my case, 40 wonderful thoughts have just hit me and made me realize how much there is to look forward to every year. It's not that I have practiced all these things all the time for then I would be a saint! But in those instances when one or a few of them counted most, there I was taking each small but sure step, rehearsing, learning, falling, achieving and becoming more convinced that keeping steady in the face of life's many struggles is the ingredient of our everyday miracles.

The thing is, we fail to notice it sometimes. Or probably, we are rushing to find a more tangible answer or asking the wrong questions. But life has a way of knocking on our door with the stern reminder: it is we who make life happen.

The list goes on in the world of experience, and I look forward to learning them in the coming years. Now, if only some of those signs of aging would go away...

1. Wear your success lightly. Arrogance is not a badge of distinction. In one of Aesop's fables, a dog that wore a bell hanging on his leash haughtily mistook it as a sign of honor. In truth, it was a badge of notoriety to warn everyone the dog was coming. People avoid loudmouths who only want to hear themselves bark or talk.

2. Give back by paying forward. Rewards multiply faster when shared. Seek no compensation: that you can give is a reward in itself. There is no nobler cause, no better way to repay those who helped you along the way than guiding and helping others who are on their way.

3. Never burn bridges. Leave your oppressor quietly but with your honor intact. You may be right, but it does not always mean the other party is wrong. Or so wrong that your encounter with that person will leave you bitter for life. Make no room for ghosts in your short life. Forgive, forget and then move on. Travel light.

4. Always keep a smile in your heart. It will keep you warm in the direst of situations. Associate with people who make you feel good about yourself. Or listen to music that pulsates with positive energy. Set some time to commune with God, nature and yourself. Talk with your loved ones, even if it is just to say hi.

5. Don't blow your own horn. Nothing beats sincere—even if quiet—praise. Calling attention to yourself only heightens or exposes your insecurities. Don't even wait for praise to be given. But volunteer your services when it is needed for the good of the majority.

6. Be generous and sincere with deserved praises. Perhaps Julia Roberts was acting (though I think not) when she accepted the Oscar for best actress. But her radiance at her moment of triumph could only have come from a heart beating with true joy and happiness over the recognition she justly deserved. That megawatt smile revealed a heart dancing in celebration of signal achievement.

7. Don't stop at praising people for the smallest of good deeds. Savor their smile, talk with them and be touched by their stories. All our lives we quietly seek wonderful people to be friends with. What could be a better occasion to start a grand friendship than one golden moment with heroic people?

8. Defend truth. Even if others cannot and even if it's not the popular thing to do. Justice dies every time we succumb to the lure of money, fame or legal technicalities. Justice perverted damages a country permanently. It makes our souls rot and leaves an indelible scar on our lives.

9. A warrior is a child. Even soldiers need a quiet place to rest. Yes, listen to that song and realize your vulnerability and find your strength in return. Behind our masks, disguises and armors, a child exists. And that's the good news: it is us, in our purest essence. Let's embrace it.

10. As you age, enjoy your inner child. Don't cling to superficial youth. Staying young is not about worrying that tomorrow wrinkles will start forming (for they will, whether we like it or not). But wrinkles and all, you should strive to become a better person.

11. Love is the answer. Seeking happiness? Down on your last luck? Reeling from a failed relationship? Nurse yourself back with the one true thing: Love and God, which are one and the same.

12. "Life is too short to be bitter," as Madonna put it. Stop sulking over the number of times you've been hurt or the bad things that have been done to you. See what went wrong. Are you allowing it? Can you stop it? Is keeping the pain worth it? Or is it time to turn to a new page in your life? Evaluate what you can influence, what you can change and what you can't.

13. Cry—quietly or in the arms of another caring soul. Getting problems off your chest lifts temporary miseries and cleanses us and prepares us for the brighter days ahead. Like all things, this too will pass. So why keep the anger and frustration buried inside when you can face it, settle it and then face life anew with fewer or zero excess baggage? Stop punishing yourself for nothing.

14. Rage, rage against the dying of the light. There are no tyrants where there are no slaves. All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing. To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards out of men. Inspirations for courage and opportunities for heroism are many. Unfortunately, not everyone can very easily answer the call and take up the challenge. *(To be concluded)*

Dennis Torrecampo, 29, works as a content manager for a leading global e-business consultancy firm in Singapore.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Service, not a business

"The problem with Fapsa (Federation of Association of Private Schools Administration) is that it is thinking of tuition. I think some private schools should remember that education is not a business...but a service."

—Education Secretary Raul Roco on the Fapsa's complaint that the secretary has been pampering public school teachers

Roots of rebellion

"If the government can prove its sincerity in uplifting the lives of the Bangsa Moro and the resolution of other issues such as land problems, including ancestral domains, then I don't think people would have reasons to rebel."

—Murad Ebrahim, chief negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

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False charges against Jesuits

LETTERS

THE INQUIRER, in its June 23, 2001 issue, carried a report to the effect that on June 18, Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said that his ouster as chair of the Moro National Liberation Front was plotted by Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales, who was "responsible in deceiving some key MNLF officials into declaring a mutiny" and that Gonzales "heads the Jesuit clergy-backed Philippine Democratic Socialist Party of the Catholic Church."

As far as I know, Misuari has made no public denial of such a public allegation, nor has he sent me a private communication disclaiming the statement. The impression this gives is that Misuari did make such a statement or he agrees with the allegation.

In addition, late in May 2001, I received a photocopy of a one-page statement in Bahasa Sug, with an English translation, purporting to be from the Information Department of the MNLF. Persons identified with Misuari's group were circulating this statement in Tawi-tawi. The statement claims that Gonzales, helped by the Jesuits in Mindanao and using tickets provided by the International Labor Organization, initiated a meeting last April 20 in Manila, attended by 26 MNLF leaders. The statement said that those who attended the meeting prepared a resolution removing Misuari from the position of chair of the MNLF and installing an Executive Committee to govern the MNLF, and that in effect this move was meant to dismantle the unity and struggle of the Bangsa Moro for their homeland and faith.

This letter takes the form of an open letter because the grave charges made against the Jesuits have been made publicly; because Misuari's group has made no move to correct the derogatory remarks against the Jesuits; and because these charges, if neither retracted nor rebutted, could cause grave harm to Muslim-Christian relations and to the common good of the people of the Philippines, and could bring about undeserved reprisal from MNLF members to fall upon the Jesuits.

Let me first take up the INQUIRER report. I prescind from the question whether or not Gonzales did facilitate the effort to remove Misuari from the chairmanship of the MNLF, and from the further question of whether or not such a removal is for the good of the MNLF. In a sense that question does not concern me as a Jesuit, because I have made it a policy to direct the Philippine Jesuits in such a way that none of us interferes in the internal affairs of the MNLF. However, I strongly protest the way the statement needlessly linked Gonzales, the PDSP and the Jesuits, thus insinuating that the PDSP is controlled or at least officially supported by the Jesuits, and that the latter, through the PDSP, have interfered in the organizational disputes within the MNLF.

Let me clarify that some Jesuits, as individuals, support the PDSP as the most apt vehicle for their service to the common good of the people, this service being a major part of the exercise of the societal dimension of their Catholic faith. But these Jesuits do not control the PDSP, which has an overwhelmingly lay leadership that includes Muslims.

Other Jesuits have made other political choices within the range of options compatible with the Catholic faith. The Society of Jesus does not officially and collectively support any political party or movement.

With regard to the statement purporting to be from the Information Department of the MNLF, I vigorously deny that the Jesuits, in Mindanao or elsewhere, had anything to do with the meeting last April 20. I deny even more strongly that the PDSP took part in any move that was meant to dismantle the unity and struggle of the Bangsa Moro for their homeland and faith.

These baseless charges, if unrefuted, could impair one important aspect of our work as Jesuits: that of propagating a culture of peace, understanding and cooperation for the common good. These false charges could also expose Jesuits and their co-workers to undeserved reprisals from Muslims who have been misinformed by such an irresponsible and slanderous statement.

The charges that the Jesuits are trying to divide and otherwise harm the Bangsa Moro and the Islamic community are all the more galling, when one considers the decades-long efforts of the Jesuits to be in solidarity with the rights and legitimate interests of the Bangsa Moro people and the Islamic community in the Philippines, and to build Christian-Muslim understanding, friendship and cooperation. All Jesuit institutions in the Philippines, especially those in Mindanao, are engaged in this task of promoting peace, reconciliation, friendship and cooperation.

Jesuit institutions have been supportive of the MNLF's position since at least as far back as 1986, and especially during the negotiations for the 1996 peace agreement between the Philippine government and the MNLF. Philippine Jesuits were quite active in campaigning among a skeptical citizenry so that they would give a solid chance for the peace agreement and the projected regional autonomous government led by MNLF to succeed, and for Christian-Muslim dialogue and cooperation to grow.

If indeed Misuari and the group supporting him made the anti-Jesuit statements perhaps because they received inaccurate reports from their sources, they should retract those statements. If they didn't say those things, they should say so clearly, so that truth may be served and the cause of justice and peace may be advanced. In that we shall please God by truly promoting the moral integrity and the socio-political liberation of our people.—**ROMEO J. INTENGAN, S.J., provincial superior, Philippine Province, Society of Jesus, De La Costa House, 132 B. Gonzales St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

Who was being arrogant?

AS fellow journalists, we would like to put on record our comments regarding your editorial last June 10, titled "Broadcast arrogance."

We begin by stating that in spite of the editorial's veil of anonymity, it was clear that the subject of the opinion was ABS-CBN's dzMM. To be specific, the editorial was about the company's chief correspondent, Korina Sanchez, and an on-air incident which occurred with Education Secretary Raul Roco.

This incident and your interpretation of the facts were the only basis of an unfair and sweeping judgment of the operations of dzMM and the editorial judgment of Sanchez. Would you say that such haste to "pass sentence" in this manner could be termed "broadcast arrogance"?

For the sake of our jurors in the court of public opinion, we offer the following arguments based on the facts:

First, Secretary Roco was not summoned to the program. A representative of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) was being interviewed live in the station. Roco was the one who contacted the station requesting a simultaneous live interview to answer the complaints being aired. The timing of the request and an ongoing live interview led to the stand-by time.

Second, Sanchez acted as a professional journalist in dealing with the secretary and in substantiating the reports being delivered. She was courteous in greeting the education secretary in spite of his apparent impatience. Sanchez properly attributed reports from field reporters and verified information from sources in defense of a "falsity" of a report being hurled by the secretary. And, she obtained a live statement from the ACT representative that she was raising parallel issues in defense of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports officials and Roco. Sanchez, therefore, acted in a fair and mature manner expected of a journalist.

(The above mentioned facts can be verified through the program's transcripts and tape on air.)

In light of all this, we find no merit in your castigating the station and our anchor as arrogant and irresponsible. If there was any form of arrogance and irresponsibility, it was not from dzMM and not from Sanchez.—**ANGELO PALMONES, station manager, dzMM 630 AM, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation**

Sue him

ON THE EDITORIAL "Vandalism in Manila," (PDI, 6/23/01) how come nobody has sued Mayor Lito Atienza? If this destruction or defacing of Mehan Gardens ever happened here in California, this cement head would be staring at a slew of court cases. Why, this mayor has the looks of Attila, the Hun.—**BEN SIMPAO, bsimpao777@aol.com**

Who can deliver?

DESPITE self-righteous civil society's castigation and the holier-than-thou pronouncements of groups that are not too keen about Joe de Venecia becoming speaker, the fight for speakership in the House of Representatives boils down to one simple issue: Who can deliver?

Let us no longer debate on the capabilities of Butch Abad, Raul del Mar, Vicente Sandoval, Carlos Padilla and others who are interested in getting the fourth powerful position in the land. All of them have unquestionable expertise and were big names in the 9th, 10th and 11th Congresses, men I have the privilege of having associated with. They are without doubt accomplished parliamentarians and very sensible debaters. But there are bigger considerations at stake.

My watchful eyes and keen recollection cannot fail me. While these gentlemen have excelled in their individual pursuits, they got stuck in inflexibility. Who among the members of the House did not dream of the speakership? Everyone did, but many did it secretly. But one thing that made us change our minds was that while it offered tremendous and awesome power, the position impose responsibilities that only De Venecia during his time performed with finesse.

I cannot help but agree with Boo Chanco, an astute political and economic observer, when he stated that "the job of speaker requires getting one's hands dirty in the process of winning legislative support for the President's program of government." Can any of the other aspirants beat that?

Come on guys! Let us put De Venecia where he belongs. Without saying that the other aspirants are unwelcome, De Venecia is the guy President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo needs most at this time.—**J. RENATO LEVISTE, representative, First District, Oriental Mindoro**

Feature on Pozorrubio

I WOULD like to thank the INQUIRER, and in particular, Dr. Belinda Aquino, for featuring my hometown, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan, in her recent column. ("Footnote to Pozorrubio," PDI, 6/23/01) When I got in touch with her, the Web address of the Pozorrubio website was still http://www.mousenet.net. However, I have since changed the website address cited in her column to: http://www.pozorrubio.net. I would very much appreciate if you could publish this correction for the benefit of those who would like to access it, particularly my *kabaleyans* from Pozorrubio and Pangasinan as a whole.—**GIN. S. QUESADA, ginquesada@yahoo.com**

Party-list group applauds ruling

ON THE VERGE of desperation, we are happy that the Supreme Court declared that the party-list system is only for the marginalized and under-represented sectors of society.

In its order, the Supreme Court adopted the guidelines to be followed by the Commission on Elections in determining the qualifications of party-list candidates. It is hoped that the lopsided result of the party-list elections last May 14, 2001, wherein only 11 out of 154 party-list candidates appear to be winning, could be corrected by the Supreme Court ruling.

The law has been clarified. It is now up to the Comelec to implement it firmly.—**AMADO F. CABAERO, president, Philippine Association of Retired Persons, 11 Brosas St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City**

No reconciliation with 'people of the lie'

I AM dismayed that Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan won seats in the Senate. During the decline of the Roman Empire, the Emperor Caligula named his horse a consul. But the horse was innocent of any wrongdoing or at least it had not been charged with rebellion.

The last elections were not the only cause of disappointment. There is a feeling of uneasiness, a disturbing feeling of dissatisfaction among the cause-oriented groups that initiated and won People Power II. The cause of dissatisfaction may be the so-called "Edsa Tres," which has been more properly named the "May 1 Mayhem." Or it may be the recent elections, the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking. Or maybe we feel victimized by a multitude of negative factors that have arisen within a very short span of time.

We, members of civil society, subscribed to a social and political compact on Jan. 20, 2001 between those in government and the governed. The fundamental unwritten contract was to support and defend the nascent administration on one hand and to require from government transparency and adherence to truthfulness, honesty and justice. In short, a new politics. And that was the gist of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's inaugural address.

The administration has to address with utmost urgency the economic plight of the poor so that they will be liberated from the enslavement in which they find themselves now. Civil society supports this endeavor to ameliorate poverty and civil society will be an active partner of the government in this task. We are conscious that this is a priority of the Macapagal administration. We encourage it and we applaud the determination of the President and her administration to institute programs and redouble efforts to correct the wrong that has reigned in our land far too long.

And yet, there remains those unsavory persons masquerading as saviors of those who are sinking in poverty and despair. These deceitful characters wave a banner of hope, a torn banner of lies and manipulation. They pay lip service to helping the poor while happily counting the money they have stolen from all of us. These thieves, these criminals, these wretched, evil creatures thrive in spreading deception and confusion. The writer and psychiatrist, Scott Peck, called them "people of the lie." Their spin-doctors and they themselves learned very well from Goebbels.

We say a thousand times no to reconciliation with old, dirty, corrupt and discredited politics and politicians. To take that course would be to engage once again in traditional politics. Worse, it would be a betrayal of the people, all the people, of our Republic. It would herald the return, however slowly, to square one.—**MIGUEL PEREZ-RUBIO, 7 San Geronimo, Magallanes Village, Makati City**

'Hindi kalaban'

HIGH BLOOD

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

"*HINDI sila ang kalaban.*"

That was Marilen's remark and it was a letdown.

I had called her up to share with her my reaction to what was then going on at the Edsa Shrine. The television coverage had been focusing on the ragtag crowd that spilled over from the Greenhills subdivision where Erap's supporters had camped earlier with the defiant intent to block the arrest of their idol. In fact, it had taken three or four hours before the court sheriff, accompanied by a massive contingent of police led by PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, was able to serve the warrant of arrest.

When the ralliers were finally overwhelmed and dispersed, some of Erap's *masa* who had regrouped moved on to the shrine premises where they staked out what many people dismissed as a pitiful parody of the earlier Edsa Dos that led to the toppling of Estrada.

At the time I called Marilen, I had not gotten over my distress with what I saw on the Sunday when I went to the Edsa Shrine to hear Mass. I meant to tell her about the disconcerting scenes: the flyovers, the trees, the underpass walls that were draped with huge streamers screaming protest against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Jaime Cardinal Sin, the language verging on the seditious and irreverent. Trash was everywhere: overhead in vituperative print and on the ground in left-over food, empty canisters and piled up rubbish.

The Sunday I went there had been designated Blue Sunday when Catholics were urged to wear blue as a gesture of reparation toward the Blessed Virgin whose shrine was being improperly used, to put it mildly. But why were there not many Marian devotees at the Edsa Shrine that particular Sunday? Why wasn't it crowded, unlike previous Sundays when an overflow crowd choked the aisles and spilled out to the areas outside? And why were the few who had gone there for the Mass not wearing blue?

Because I was there, I knew why! For besides the visual profanity screaming from the streamers and posters, multiple magnified sounds emanating from various sources also assailed the human ear. From the angry crowd worked up by the strident voice of an announcer rose a babel of voices, now shouting, now bellowing in off-color songs, while revved up music blared by the sound system at abnormally high decibels tended to drown the announcer's hyped harangue about the issues of the day.

It was an atmosphere that could only stoke simmering passions keyed up for several days now.

That perhaps explained why many stayed away from the Edsa Shrine that Sunday. It was a prospect the devotee would not be prepared to confront.

Besides, the people I saw there loitering around, their faces sullen and belligerent, were not the type who gathered there for their Sunday obligations. They wore red-orange wristbands, shirts with "Erap Pa Rin" slogans, and misshapen rubber shoes or thin-soled slippers. There were men who had stripped to their waist and were wiping their sweating bodies with their shirts. Some elderly folk with their grandchildren in tow were huddled over large *calderos*, preparing to have their share of lunch. Near the side entrance, several women clutching big baskets and umbrellas, sat on their haunches, waiting for their turn to use the washroom.

No, they didn't look hostile; they reminded me of the indigent parishioners who used to queue for their Christmas packages during gift-giving time at our former parish in Paco. But seeing the glum, expressionless look on their faces dissuaded me from standing in line with them.

I was telling Marilen about all these and more. About the angry woman who shouted, shortly before the Mass, "*O may misa pa ba? Hindi pa ba tapos 'yan?*" or words to that effect, making me wonder if she took her faith to heart, and if she did, whether she had tried to get others like her to say the rosary in deference to the Blessed Virgin's territory. And there was this emaciated man, wearing a dirty *sando* and faded shorts, who came shuffling in in his rubber slippers, took a seat on one of the pews and watched the tableau at the altar, while clutching a bottle of mineral water in his hand, like a detached observer yet remembering to make the sign of the cross at gospel time (out of habit perhaps). I thought he looked furtive, as though he felt like an unwanted guest.

Then I got to the point when I told Marilen how near to anger I had gotten because, after the Mass, when I went to buy pizza, the counter girl commented, "*Anti-*Erap *ka ano? Kasi na ka azul ka, e.*" I felt she missed the point because, as I told her, "Pro Mama Mary *ako,*" thinking this was an effective putdown.

But Marilen cut me short and said: "*Hindi sila ang kalaban.*"

I should have expected that from Marilen, since I knew she belonged to a cause-oriented group who understood the *masa* and worked for their political enlightenment.

Now that Cardinal Sin has made his public apology to the *masa* and has announced the Church's program of renewed concern for the poor, it's time to view them in a better light. Even the President now sees the urgency of reevaluating this social class whose presence we cannot ignore.

For to this class belong the dauntless women who, at the crack of dawn, prepare their market stalls, laying out the frozen fish, arranging the vegetables, stacking the fruits in colorful pyramid piles before the customers come for the day's purchases. To this class also belong the men who do carpentry work for the more prosperous families, who are hired by government or private firms to dig clogged sewers, construct multi-story buildings, make the round of communities aboard dump trucks overflowing with garbage, and come around pushing their carts to buy old newspapers and empty bottles.

This class counts among its members the middle-aged (and aging) women who do laundry jobs, then go home to do their own families' laundry late into the night; who serve as *yayas* for children of professional mothers who would be helpless without them; who persevere as cooks or househelp while the eldest in their brood take on a surrogate mother's role in the absence of the breadwinner.

To this class also belong the intrepid sidewalk vendors hawking fruits, vegetables, flowers and whose meager income for the day could go pffft if they get caught by the police out on a *kotong* binge.

There is talk that the *masa* will regroup for another show of force for the arraignment of the former president on the plunder case on July 10. This time I am not bristling with anger over this prospect. *Hindi sila ang kalaban.* The finger should be pointed at politicians with their unfulfilled promises. At businessmen who are stingy with salary raises. At company owners who perpetuate the casual-employee racket. At the rich and their profligate spending for weddings, debuts, birthday bashes and endless socializing.

And also at the Church, who must now know the real meaning of the term Church of the Poor.

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy, 73, is a retired journalist.

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, Editor

US troops linked to Okinawa rape

TOKYO—The US military on Okinawa were yesterday linked to the rape of a local woman in the latest in a series of incidents that have increased hostility to the forces' presence on the island and strained US-Japan relations.

The rape, which took place in the early hours of the morning, came on the eve of the first summit between US President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who voiced his concern over the incident.

Okinawa police stopped short of saying US troops were definitely involved in the attack but said they are searching for a car with special number plates used by US Forces personnel and civilian employees.

A spokesperson said the victim, a woman in her 20's was raped in a parking lot in the early hours of Friday morning and that her attackers were foreigners.

Okinawa, an island off southern Japan, hosts around two thirds of the 47,000 US troops based in the country.

"An Okinawan woman in her 20s was raped by men believed to be foreign nationals," police spokesperson Tomomitsu Higa said.

"We are looking for the car with "Y" number plates. A witness said the Y-number car sped away from the parking lot."

The Y designation number plate is used by US military personnel and US civilians working at the US military facilities, the policeman said.

The attack took place in Chatan, some 18 km north of Naha, the capital of Okinawa, at around 2:05 a.m.

"The suspects are currently at large. We have yet to determine how many were involved in the rape. The crime may have been committed by a single suspect," Higa said.

Jiji Press quoted local police sources as saying the woman was raped by one man after being surrounded by several men.

Just hours before his departure to meet Bush, Koizumi expressed concern over the incident. "We must first confirm the report," he said. "If it was true, such a crime would hurt residents' feelings."

Koji Omi, the state minister responsible for Okinawa went further.

"If the report turns out to be true, the government would strongly protest (to the US), and take the necessary measures," he told reporters.

US officers in Okinawa said the military bases in the region were cooperating with police.

"Right now we are fully cooperating with the Okinawa prefectural police in their investigation. We are aware that the incident took place and we are fully cooperating," Masao Doi, head of media relations at the US Air Force's Kadena airbase said.

Doi declined to confirm or deny whether a member of the USAAF was involved in the rape. "It would be premature to speculate," he said.

Okinawa was handed back to Japan in 1972 after 27 years of US military rule following World War II.

A series of offenses by US servicemen there have aroused local hostility against the continuing military presence in recent years.

The 1995 rape of a local schoolgirl by three US servicemen sparked mass protests demanding the removal of US forces from Okinawa, a strategic island chain within striking distance of China and the Korean Peninsula.

In January, an Okinawan court fined a US marine for taking lewd "upskirt" photographs of a high-school girl.

In September last year, the US military said it had sentenced a 19-year-old Marine to two years' jail for fondling an Okinawan 14-year-old schoolgirl in a case that triggered major protests.

The Okinawa issue is not on the agenda for this weekend's Camp David summit but the two leaders are due to discuss security questions.

In a speech on June 23 to mark the 56th anniversary of the World War II battle of Okinawa, Koizumi said he would make a reduction of the US presence on the island a priority of his administration. *AFP*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

S. Korea detains ex-minister in new anti-corruption drive

SEOUL—South Korean prosecutors yesterday detained a former vice defense minister suspected of taking bribes from contractors as the country launched a new corruption clampdown.

The warrant for Moon Il-sub was requested a day after the authorities announced that 251 banking agency officials and businessmen had been arrested for corruption since April.

Prosecutors said the 251 arrested had been involved in offences that had cost the state $1.5 billion.

Moon, 59, was charged with taking $31,500 in bribes from four defense firms in return for business favors while he was in office between August last year and April this year, prosecutors said.

Suspicions about the official were raised when his former driver stole about $30,000 in cash and cheques from Moon's home in March. The former vice minister was unable to explain the source of the money.

Prosecutors said they would also lay bribery charges against managers from the defense firms.

President Kim Dae-jung this week called for a new battle against corruption in South Korea and parliament passed a new law Thursday giving the public the right to demand an investigation of suspected irregularities.

The president, who has warned in the past that corruption threatened his reform program, said he had been "saddened" at reports of the 251 arrests carried out since April.

Prosecutors said 112 people were arrested for causing the loss of public funds injected into financial institutions. They estimated that $1.1 billion had gone missing.

An additional loss of $400 million was caused by 139 people accused of absconding with money or diverting public funds meant for pensions, insurance or public construction projects.

The new law, which will go into effect in January, will give anyone who detects corruption to file a report with backing evidence to a presidential anti-corruption committee.

The committee will refer the case to public auditors or investigators. If prosecutors do not act, the presidential committee can file an appeal with a high court.

According to the latest corruption index released this week by Transparency International, an anti-corruption advocacy group, South Korea was ranked the 42nd most clean country to do business out of 91 countries judged.

Bangladesh was ranked 91st, but Asian rivals Singapore came fourth, Hong Kong 14th and Japan 21st. *AFP*

Is Beijing sinking?

BEIJING—A lack of water around Beijing is causing the city to subside, leading some experts to recommend moving the capital of China to another city, state media reported yesterday.

The water shortage has led to the over-extraction of deep ground water which in turn has led to subsidence of 70 cm in the east of the city over the past 40 years, said the Zuojia Wenzhai.

The bi-weekly intellectual review said the problem affected the eastern side because it relied on ground water while the west was fed by reservoirs in the nearby mountains.

The review said the amount of water available per inhabitant in Beijing had fallen to 300 square cubic meters per person, 15 percent of the national average.

Last year there was a 200 million cubic meter shortfall of water in Beijing, but the review warned that figure could rise to 990 million cubic meters by 2010 or even two billion if there was serious drought.

To combat the shortage of water in the north of China, which has been pummeled by a decade of drought, the authorities are reviving an old plan to divert the waters of the mighty Yangtze River further north.

However water experts told the review the plan was unrealistic and would take too long.

The review said some experts had suggested moving the capital of China from Beijing to the central city of Wuhan, Xian in the north, Lanzhou in the northwest or the southwestern metropolis of Chengdu.

Last week the ministry of water resources unveiled plans to treble the price of water and spend $3 billion to improve Beijing's water management system by 2005 to ensure the city could cope with the 2008 Olympic Games, if its bid was successful. *AFP*

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US to Taliban: Curb Bin Laden

ISLAMABAD—The United States warned Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement yesterday that they would bear responsibility for any attack on US interests by Saudi militant Osama bin Laden, the Taliban ambassador said.

US Ambassador William Milam delivered the warning about Bin Laden—who has been given shelter by the Taliban—during an hour-long meeting at Kabul's Embassy in Islamabad, Taliban Ambassador Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef said.

Zaeef said he assured Milam that, although Bin Laden has been given sanctuary, the Taliban would not allow him to mount any attacks against US targets from their territory.

Bin Laden has been accused by Washington of a long list of attacks on American targets, including the bombing of two US embassies in east Africa. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Powell endorses monitors

RAMALLAH, West Bank—US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Thursday outside monitors were needed to supervise a fragile ceasefire and help guide Israel and the Palestinians in preliminary peacemaking moves. While the White House said it was not a US policy reversal, the Bush administration had twice helped Israel scuttle attempts by the Palestinians to win UN Security Council approval for an observer force. Powell, at a news conference with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said, "There will be a need for monitors and observers to see what is happening" between the two sides to prevent violence. Arafat said the force should be drawn from the United Nations, the United States, the European Community and others. *AP*

Musharraf: No early polls

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan—Military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Thursday ruled out early elections in Pakistan, saying that democracy will return to this poor South Asian nation no sooner than October 2002. "This is my assurance that we will have an elected government in place by October 2002 . . . there should be no doubts about," said Musharraf, who declared himself president after dissolving the suspended Parliament and four provincial assemblies earlier this month. The Army toppled the elected government of prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup on Oct. 12, 1999, accusing him of massive corruption, destroying institutions and undermining the Constitution. The Supreme Court justified the military takeover and gave Musharraf three years to introduce sweeping political and economic reforms and amend the Constitution. *AP*

Trimble resignation

BELFAST—The resignation of David Trimble as the head of Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive is to come into effect on Sunday, sparking a process which threatens to destroy the government institutions born of the 1998 peace accord. Trimble, a moderate Protestant, last month handed in a resignation letter post-dated July 1 to the speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly. His letter will be opened and read by the chamber on Monday, July 2, unless the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has given in to Trimble's ultimatum and started disarming by then, which seems highly unlikely. *AFP*

6 executed in China

BEIJING—Six people have been executed in northern China's Inner Mongolia region after being found guilty in one of the worst cases of trafficking in women in modern Chinese history, state media said yesterday. The six were part of a 12-member gang who abducted and sold 118 women in the period from 1992 until early last year, making a total of about $72,000, the Xinhua news agency reported. The gang traveled 71 times to the area near the southwestern municipality of Chongqing, each time inducing local women to follow them back to Inner Mongolia with promises of work, the agency said. But once the women arrived at their destination, they were sold to locals at prices ranging from $361 to $964, according to the agency. *AFP*

'Pearl Harbor' porn scam

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian police have sunk a pornographic version of World War II movie "Pearl Harbor" which hit the local market two days ago. The first five minutes of the VCDs are the same as the original but the rest is hard-core porn, home ministry official Rodzi Husain was quoted by Friday's Star newspaper as saying. The cover of the VCD is something of a giveaway—depicting a woman in Army uniform with her top exposed. *AFP*

US actor Jack Lemmon dies at 76

LOS ANGELES—Renowned US actor Jack Lemmon—who won two Academy Awards over his long Hollywood career by making audiences laugh or cry—has died of complications from cancer, his publicist said Thursday. He was 76.

Lemmon died late Wednesday at the Norris Cancer Hospital at the University of Southern California—surrounded by his wife, actress Felicia Farr, and other family members, publicist Warren Cowan said.

In the course of his long career the Boston-born, Harvard-educated actor developed an on-screen image as a likable everyman, which was close to his real life persona, friends said.

"Jack Lemmon was a beautiful person, and that is an opinion shared by everyone who knew him," said Cowan, was his publicist and friend for "many, many years."

The actor made more than 60 films ranging from slapstick comedy to drama, received eight Academy Award nominations and won two Oscars.

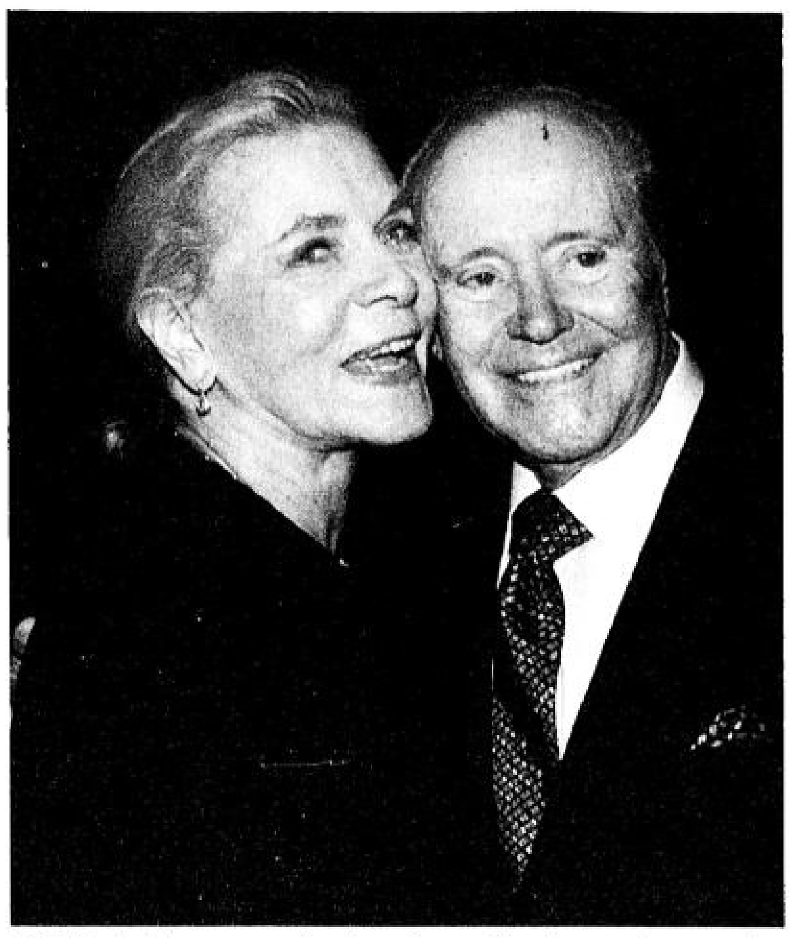
His first came in 1955 for best supporting actor in "Mister Roberts," and the second for 1973's "Save the Tiger," (best actor) as a down-on-his-luck dress manufacturer.

He also won acclaim in the 1982 Constantin Costa Cavras film "Missing," as the conservative father of an American who was "disappeared" by the Chilean military just after the South American country's bloody 1973 coup.

That role earned him an Oscar nomination for best actor, and the best actor prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

But Lemmon was perhaps most famous for his comic roles in Billy Wilder classics like 1959's "Some Like It Hot" opposite Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis, "The Apartment" (1960) with Shirley MacLaine and "The Fortune Cookie," his first pairing with the late Walter Matthau.

"Happiness is working with Jack Lemmon," Wilder, who made seven films with the affable actor, once said. *AFP*



ACTOR Jack Lemmon and actress Lauren Bacall pose at a reception following an invitation-only memorial service honoring the late actor Walter Matthau at the Directors' Guild Theater in Los Angeles in this Aug. 20 file photo. REUTERS

Castro says younger brother Raul will be Cuba's next leader

WASHINGTON—Cuban President Fidel Castro said in an interview with a US television network broadcast late Thursday that his brother Raul had the experience and authority to succeed him one day as Cuba's leader.

"Raul is very healthy . . . undoubtedly, he's the comrade who has the most authority after me. And has the most experience. Therefore I think he has the capacity to succeed me," Castro said in an interview on NBC television.

CASTRO

Raul Castro, the head of Cuba's armed forces, has long been considered a likely successor to his brother, who is five years his senior.

"It is not something that I'm worried about, succession," Castro added.

Castro said he is also unworried by the hardline taken by US President George W. Bush toward Cuba.

"We feel very much at ease, because whatever he does it would be useless, and he would lose more than I would," said Castro.

The Cuban leader has toughed out an almost 40-year US economic embargo, 10 US presidents, and countless assassination attempts.

There has been increased speculation about Castro's health after the Cuban leader briefly swooned two hours into an outdoor speech on Saturday.

Castro, who turns 75 in August, bounced back after a 10-minute rest, then continued his speech later Saturday in a television studio, blaming "heat and excessive sun" for the episode.

The Cuban president boasted about his health in the US interview, recorded in Havana late Wednesday.

"My cholesterol level is 3.75, a little under four, my pulse is that of an athlete, normally 60 beats per minutes," he said, according to an English-language translation of Castro's words provided by NBC. *AFP*

Montesinos in prison he designed

LIMA—Former presidential adviser Vladimiro Montesinos Thursday started calling an ultra-secure lockdown home, a prison he designed and ordered built for the country's worst terrorists in 1992.

The once-feared Montesinos, who now faces an avalanche of charges that run the gamut of Peru's penal code, was moved from the downtown Justice Palace jail to the maximum security lockdown at a naval base in the nearby port of Callao early Thursday.

Hundreds of police officers blocked side streets as a caravan of 30 vehicles escorted Montesinos to the prison.

The prison has a mere eight cells—all reserved for inmates convicted of terrorism and treason—and walls thick enough to withstand heavy explosives.

Montesinos will be joining Abimael Guzman, former head of the messianic Maoist Shining Path rebel group, and Victor Polay, former head of the Tupac Amaru rebel group, as well as other senior rebel leaders from both groups.

Justice Minister Diego Garcia Sayan scoffed at the suggestion that Montesinos would start a hunger strike to prevent authorities from sending him there.

"Under no circumstances do measures of force by the interns influence the decision making process," Garcia Sayan said.

Montesinos' lawyer Patricia Hurtado opposed the move, arguing that civilian penal authorities have no jurisdiction over the naval prison.

Montesinos was being sent there to guarantee his physical safety and to prevent any possible escape attempt, Garcia Sayan said.

The prison is surrounded by swamps, a mine field, and concrete walls topped with barbed wire. The prison walls are patrolled by elite Navy commandos, who are wearing ski masks to protect their identities.

Inside the walls, inmates live in individually isolated concrete cells, two meters wide by three meters long, with only with a tiny opening for light—but no proper window—sealed by a heavy steel door, and a mattress on top of a concrete bed.

The inmates never see or hear their fellow prisoners, and are only allowed outside for fresh air for 30 minutes a day on a tiny patio of tall walls patrolled by commandos.

Prison workers hand inmates three meals a day through a small opening in the steel door.

Inmates are allowed one 30-minute visit per month, and then only from direct relatives—spouses, siblings or offspring. *AFP*

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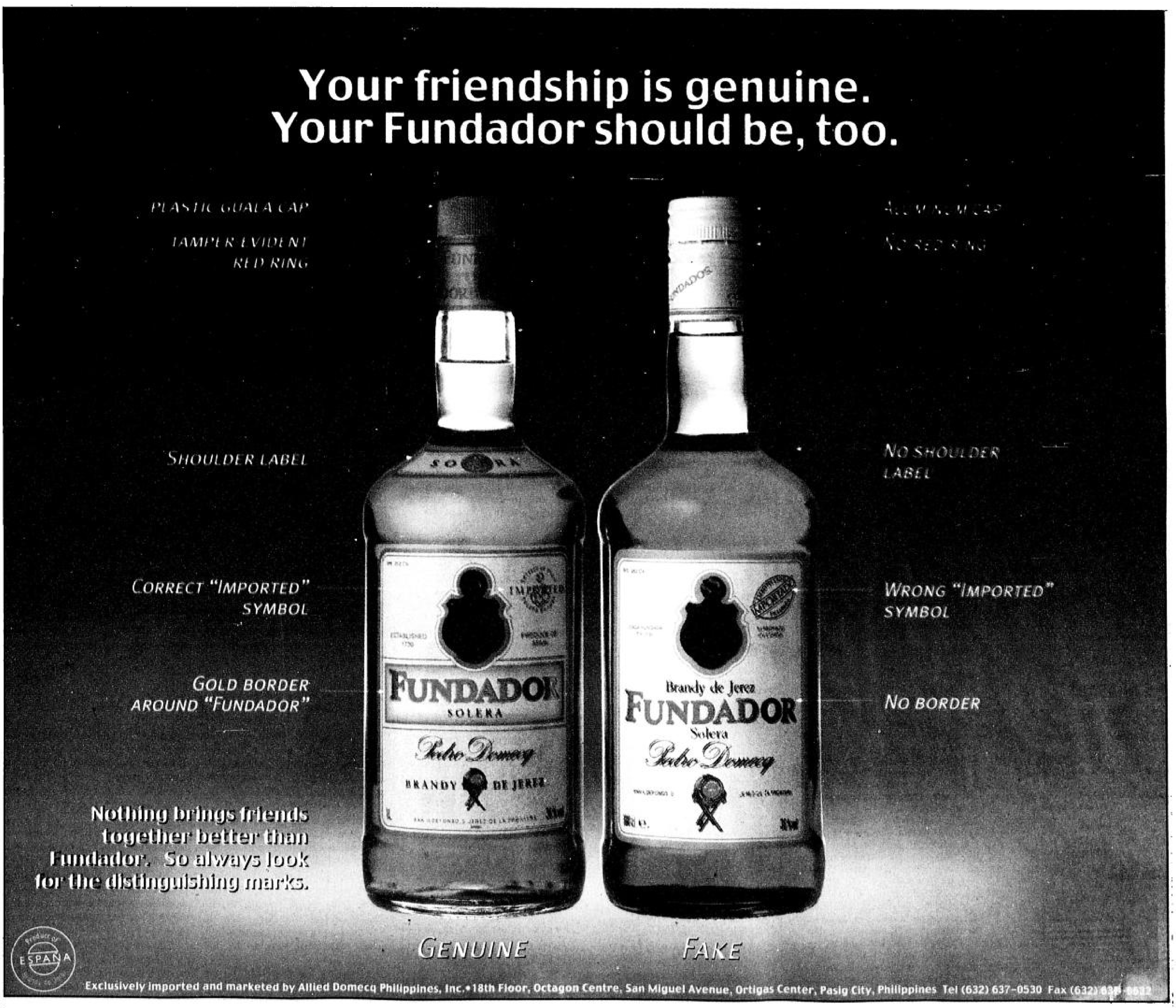

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ROUNDUP

Forest rangers retrenched

BAGUIO CITY—Due to lack of funds, 14 of 17 forest rangers and employees at the Mt. Pulag National Park were retrenched by the regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources here. Emerita Tamiray, protected area superintendent of the Mt. Pulag National Park, said starting July, only three workers, including her, would be retained by the DENR. But she said the DENR has tapped volunteer groups, composed of former DENR workers, to guide tourists and campers on Mt. Pulag, which straddles Benguet and Ifugao. *Lief Volt Pormento and Katrine Sales, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Students protest

BAGUIO CITY—Some 100 students from the University of the Philippines College Baguio on Thursday marched on Session Road here to protest tuition increase and the imposition of other fees in UP. The protest march, spearheaded by the UPCB Student Council and other student organizations in the college, was part of a UP system-wide protest led by the Office of the Student Regent and the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP. The students were also demanding higher state subsidy to education. *Sandra Go and Katrine Sales, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Jueteng' men fall

TAGUDIN, Ilocos Sur—Police arrested two jueteng collectors while they were allegedly taking bets in Barangay Bio on Tuesday. Arrested were Florante Lutchina and Bibiano Lodia Jr. Seized from them were P653 in jueteng bets. Police said jueteng financiers in this town conduct draws in Sudipen, La Union to avoid police. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rabies kills 15

TUGUEGARAO CITY—At least 15 people in Cagayan Valley died of rabies infection from April to June this year, records from the regional Department of Health showed. Dr. Romulo Turingan, anti-rabies division chief of the regional DOH, said six victims were from Cagayan, four victims each were from Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya, and a victim was from Quirino. DOH records said of the 1,529 dog bite victims in the region, 993 victims received anti-rabies vaccines from hospitals and health centers. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Execs honored

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the city government's agencies honored outgoing city officials for their contributions to Baguio's development. The top recipients of the first Parangal at Pasasalamat Awards were outgoing Mayor Mauricio Domogan and outgoing Rep. Bernardo Vergara. Domogan was elected Baguio representative while Vergara was elected city mayor during the May 14 elections. Six incumbent councilors and six city executives also received the awards. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
source: pagasa

Metro Manila HI 31° Lo 24°	Baguio HI 25° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 30° Lo 22°
Laoag HI 32° Lo 24°	Clark Zone HI 30° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 31° Lo 24°	Bacolod HI 31° Lo 25°	Roxas HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu HI 30° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 31° Lo 24°	Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga HI 31° Lo 23°	Cagayan de Oro HI 31° Lo 22°	Davao HI 30° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/30/01

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Diseases stalk shelters for evacuees from Mayon

LEGAZPI CITY—With or without high-profile visits from high-ranking officials of the government, diseases stalk evacuation centers set up for residents around Mayon Volcano who fled its eruption.

Health authorities here reported that at least 57 evacuees fell ill from respiratory diseases since the volcano's eruption drove close to 50,000 residents to various shelters here.

This prompted the Department of Health to call on local government units to monitor the evacuees' health conditions daily and replenish medical supplies.

LGUs were also asked to put in isolation evacuees who had contracted communicable diseases in the shelters and bring them to hospitals if needed.

Gerardo Bayugo, DOH Bicol regional director, made the recommendations as health workers expressed fears more evacuees may contract various diseases.

The DOH had recorded only seven cases of disease-stricken evacuees at the start of the residents' flight from the eruption site.

Thirty-seven cases of coughs and colds were also listed and treated. There was one case of hypertension, Bayugo reported.

Tabaco City has a case of acute respiratory infection; Malilipot, 12; Sto. Domingo, 4; Legazpi City, 14; Daraga, 17; Guinobatan, 8, and Ligao, 1.

Legazpi City has also three cases of diarrhea; Daraga, 2; and Guinobatan, 5.

Tabaco City has 23 cases of coughs and colds while Legazpi City has 14 cases.

Health authorities, however, added that the growing number of evacuees might aggravate the congestion in the shelters and lead to the further spread of diseases.

The number of evacuees rose to 45,029 from Wednesday's 43,529 persons.

The risk of diseases could come from the shelters themselves, from their water and food supply, and from their waste disposal systems, said health officials.

The eruption has caused damage to crops and farms that was estimated to be worth P22 million as of now.

Damage to crops and farms was estimated to be P15 million while the fisheries sector lost about P7 million, the officials said.

But agriculture officials have yet to account for damages wrought on irrigation facilities and livestock.

Provincial Agriculturist Angel Nieva said his office would submit a rehabilitation plan, which can be funded by the provincial government, the local governments and the Department of Agriculture.

"We will give priority to the towns of Ligao, Guinobatan and Oas, (them) being hardest hit by ash falls. We will give seedlings and farm tools. And this time, we would seek support from various functionaries. Right now, we are preparing for any eventuality as the Phivolcs predicted more eruptions . . . and that might mean more damage to agriculture," he said.

The eruption also brought boulders raining on communities around the volcano. Volcanologists said new lava and pyroclastic materials had formed around the volcano's cone.

The volcano rained boulders on the Bonga Gully on its southeast flank. Earthquakes were also reported during lulls in the volcano's explosions.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said lava continues to trickle from the summit toward the southeast sector of the Bonga Gully.

A heavy downpour occurred Wednesday night, prompting the Phivolcs to send a team to the Padang Area to monitor the river channel there for lahar flows.

A muddy stream flow was observed. Rains eventually abated after about an hour.

The Phivolcs said more explosions are expected.

Alert level 5 is still up round areas near the volcano.

The Phivolcs continues to warn people against straying into areas designated as danger zones.

The agency also warned residents, who keep coming back to the danger zones to attend to their property, not to underestimate small explosions.

"Small explosions can trigger rock avalanches toward areas within the danger zones," volcanologists warned.

In the event of large explosions, however, other areas around the volcano would be affected and more danger zones will be delineated.

Resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said if heavy rains occurred over the volcano, people should avoid going near river channels around Mayon because of the possibility of lahar flows. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Local boys' seen behind abductions

COTABATO CITY--The military here said the abductors of a Chinese engineer in North Cotabato are "local boys" identified with a local subcontractor involved in the construction of the Japanese-funded Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation dam.

But Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, refused to identify the suspects in the kidnapping of Zhang Zhong Quiang, 43, manager of the China Import-Export Technologies (Citech).

The military is pursuing a business rivalry angle as the possible motive of the Zhang kidnapping.

Ando said they received reports saying that Zhang was seized on orders of a local subcontractor to force the Chinese company to leave.

On June 24, Mo Ming Yang, coworker of Zhang, was spared from kidnapping after residents convinced the suspects not to abduct the Chinese worker "to prevent military operations and displacement of villagers."

Zhang was seized in Matalam, North Cotabato while on board a van-for-hire from Davao City.

Supt. Ruben Abapo, North Cotabato police director, said Citech refused to cooperate with police investigators.

Citing intelligence reports, Abapo said ransom negotiations have been going on in an undisclosed place.

Earlier, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol blamed the Chinese firm and officials of the National Irrigation Administration for not reporting the incident to the police.

The multibillion-peso Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation dam is one of the government's flagship projects in the South. It is funded by the Japan Economic Cooperation Fund.

When completed, the dam will irrigate 12,000 hectares of ricefields in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palm oil farms planned in ARMM

DAVAO CITY—Areas in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will be prioritized as potential farms for palm oil.

Oscar Griño, Mindanao Palm Oil Industry Development Coordinating Council, said palm growers have reached a consensus to tap the potential of the ARMM due to its vast but undeveloped tracts of land.

The recently concluded Palm Oil Congress here also saw the drafting of a series of resolutions by growers and farmers, one of which requested the national government to create a Palm Oil Council through an executive order mandating the different government agencies "to perform as needed."

Griño said the creation of the council would rationalize the policies of the government on the development of palm oil.

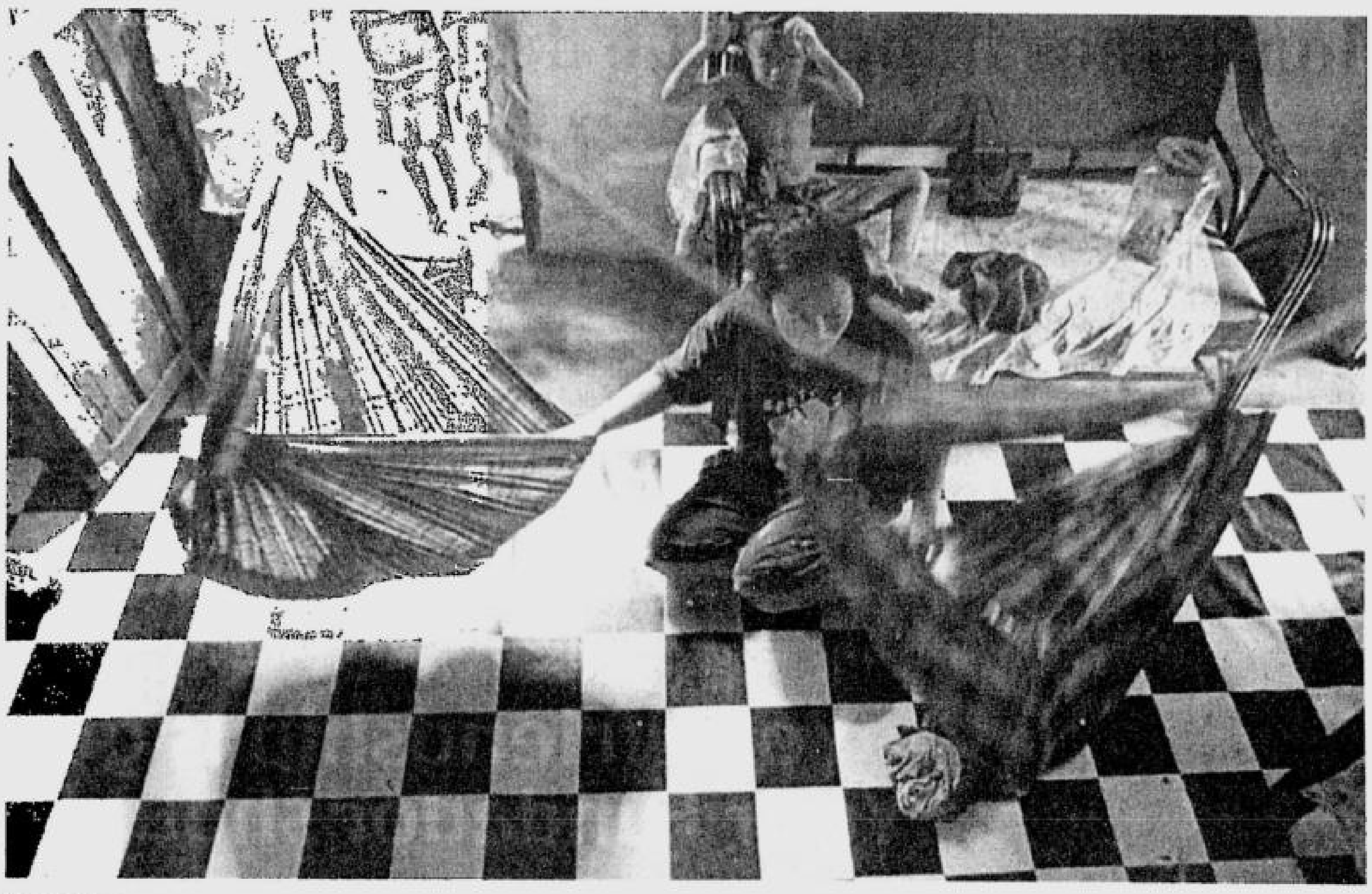
"It would also give the government a direction because we can't just plant anywhere. There has to be proper coordination," he said.

The growers are also asking for a separate financial window for palm oil which has a longer "gestation period."

"Nobody wants to lend us anything because of that reason and other financial windows do not jibe with our needs," he said.

He added that even though in three years, palm oil can already produce fruit, harvesting them "would not be viable."

Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Danilo Coronacion has promised growers irrigation, subsidized fertilizers and financial assistance. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ROUSED DENNIS SABANGAN

Hammocks couldn't be the safest place for this woman's babies as mortars exploded near her home in Isabela, Basilan during a military offensive against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

DEBTS, LABOR FEUD

Province on brink of losing electricity

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The National Electrification Administration has taken over the management of the Eastern Samar Electric Cooperative Inc. (Esamelco) amid a month-long labor dispute between its management and workers.

NEA Administrator Manuel Luis Sanchez, in a faxed order dated June 27, told outgoing Gov. Ruperto Ambil Jr. and lawyer Nedito Campo, president of the Esamelco board of directors, that the agency will send to the province Eddie Adlao as project supervisor of Esamelco.

Sanchez said the takeover would ensure that there would be no disruption in electric services while the two sides in the conflict resolve their dispute.

Electricity in Eastern Samar was switched off by the striking labor union on June 22, then switched it on on June 24 and switched it off again on June 26. Power was fully restored on June 27 when the NEA takeover order was received.

The NEA takeover also came a few days before the National Power Corp. (Napocor) was scheduled to cut off power supply to Eastern Samar due to the non-payment of the "huge debt" incurred by Esamelco.

The Napocor earlier told Esamelco that it would disconnect the power supply on July 2.

Both labor and management representatives of Esamelco have agreed to let the NEA temporarily take over the management of the cooperative, said Virgie Bordios, provincial information officer.

The agreement was reached in an emergency meeting called by Ambil in Borongan town. Among those present in the meeting were the Esamelco board directors and its general manager, officials of the striking labor union, the provincial police director, and officers of the local Rotary Club.

Bordios said it was also agreed during the meeting that the labor union and Esamelco's management would settle their dispute outside the cooperative's premises.

The strike had paralyzed Esamelco's administrative operations because the striking workers barricaded Esamelco's premises and did not allow those on the side of management to enter the office.

Members of the Esamelco labor union went on strike on June 4 over alleged union busting activities of the management and delayed payment of the workers' social security premiums and Philippine National Bank loan amortization.

They also accused the management of violating the collective bargaining agreement, particularly a provision granting workers clothing, longevity and meal allowances and overtime pay.

Several conciliation dialogues were initiated between the management and labor union but to no avail. The Department of Labor and Employment issued a return-to-work order on June 11 but the labor union did not heed the order.

Another conciliation meeting held on June 20, witnessed by Borongan Mayor Melcho Aragao and the regional chiefs of the NEA and the National Conciliation and Mediation Board, also failed to reconcile the two groups.

SURPRISE VISIT PHOTO COURTESY OF BULUT OFFICE

Apayao Governor-elect Elias Bulut couldn't hide his satisfaction at the surprise visit by President Macapagal to his province recently. The President promised several projects to the province.

Mosquitoes prompt alert

LEGAZPI CITY—Health officials here expressed fears of a possible outbreak of a highly contagious disease, which is caused by a parasite brought by mosquito bites.

This prompted the Provincial Health Office to put the town of Manito on its list of priority areas for mass treatment to prevent the spread of *filariasis*.

Provincial health officer Veronica Madulid confirmed that the Manito municipal health office had recorded the first case of *filariasis* early this week, although other cases still have to be accounted for.

Madulid said residents of Barangay Nagotgot, Manito are scheduled to undergo mass treatment to prevent the spread of *filariasis* after confirming the first reported case.

"This will cover all residents aged two years and above," she said.

Blood testing will be conducted and the residents will be examined for symptoms of the diseases.

Filariasis is a contagious disease caused by *filaria*, a *parasitic nematode* whose larva is carried by mosquitoes and transmitted to humans.

The disease, which could be fatal if untreated, is also transmitted by human contact. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cagayan reports gains in tourism

TUGUEGARAO CITY—While the tourism industry in the country, especially in some areas in Mindanao, is limping because of rebellion-related problems, tourist arrivals in Cagayan Valley increased by 68 percent from January to May this year, a tourism official in the region said.

Blessida Diwa, regional director of the Department of Tourism, said their records showed that 221,671 tourists visited Cagayan Valley compared to 131,797 visitors recorded in the same period last year. Of this, 15,301 were foreign tourists.

In a statement, Diwa attributed the increase to regular commercial flights to and from Batanes, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela.

She said regular bus trips from the Cordillera, Ilocos region and Metro Manila also contributed to the increase in visitor arrivals in the region.

Among the favorite tourist destinations are the Callao Caves in Peñablanca town and the Basilica Minore in Piat town, both in Cagayan; the Kasibu Caves in Nueva Vizcaya; the old stone houses, churches and rugged hills of Batanes; mountains, rivers and caves in Quirino; and the churches of Isabela.

The national shrine of Our Lady of the Visitation in Ilagan, Isabela; the Calvary Hills in Iguig, Cagayan; and the cylindrical belfry of St. Mathias Church in Tumauini, Isabela, have also drawn pilgrims and tourists alike.

"Because of these varied destinations, the region is able to draw more tourists regularly. Since the opening of the (Cagayan Valley) DOT office in 1991, tourist arrivals in the region have been rising at a rate of 10-20 percent yearly," she said.

Diwa said her agency has asked hotels, resorts and tourist centers here to take precautionary measures, like posting security guards and installing security alarms, to protect visitors. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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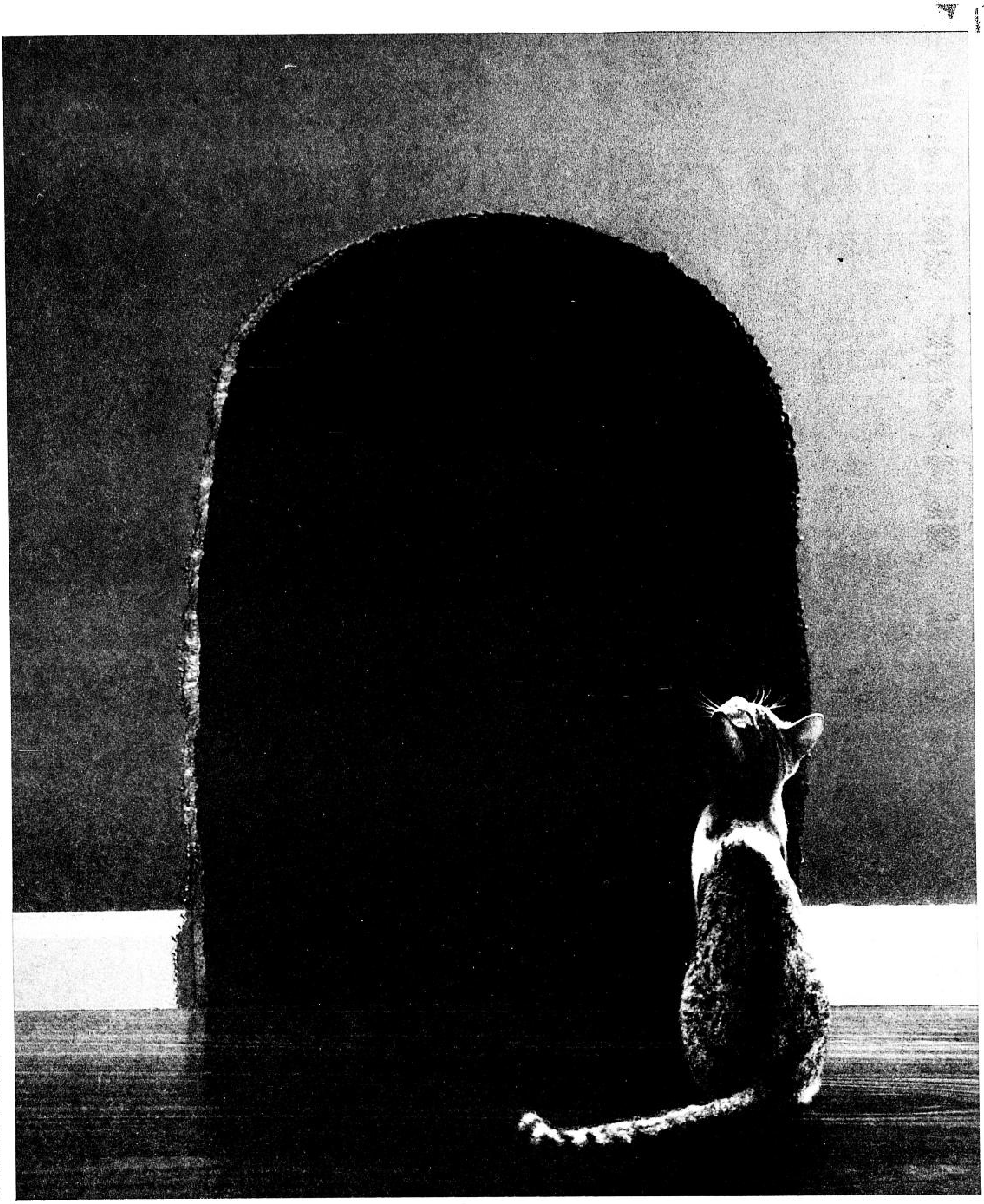

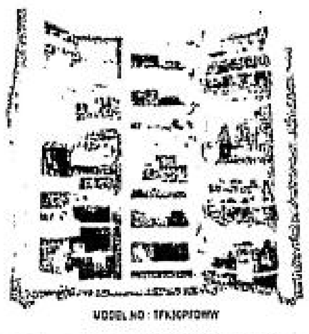

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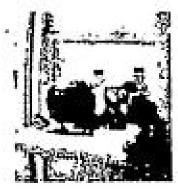

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Cebu's cash flows not to the poor

Fund surplus or shortfall, services take a back seat

By JUAN MERCADO
Cebu City

TOO little cash in City Hall and misused surpluses at the Provincial Capitol form a contrasting backdrop for Cebu officials who would take office July 1.

Third-term Gov. Pablo Garcia will be sworn into office facing pointed questions from the Commission on Audit: Why did the Capitol hoard P42.9 million of its Special Education Fund in treasury bills and time deposits?

Students here lack everything—desks, classrooms, teachers, supplies, clean water, electricity and toilets. There's only one book per three students. And virtually none for math and science subjects.

Over at City Hall, incoming Mayor Tomas Osmeña takes over a dried up coffer: Mayor Alvin Garcia's election spending bloated funds for personnel component in the city's P1.2 billion budget.

Annual debt service, between P230 to P316 million, will start after Osmeña's second term begins (If he wins a second term). The bill could rise to P415 million by 2005.

"City Hall's lack of transparency denied us information on debts and other issues," the Cebu Daily News wrote. "We now appreciate the proverb: Better to go to bed hungry than wake up in debt."

Both Capitol and City Hall have never been forthcoming on the Cebuano's peso.

Complaining of bias, Osmeña banned reporters from "Bombo Radyo" then Sun*Star Daily from his press conferences.

Garcia earlier issued Memorandum No. 58 that bars Capitol officials from showing budget data.

Skewed priorities

Skewed priorities, in both Capitol and City Hall, surface in reports by independent agencies, like COA or press reports.

In its last annual report, COA reveals that the Capitol bought, with SEF loose change, one dental chair and three computers despite the Constitution's mandate that "education be given the highest priority in (the) government budget."

For every 1,000 Filipinos, there are 13 personal computers, a World Bank report says. That places the Philippines at par with Botswana and slightly ahead of Peru. Within the Asean, the comparative figure is 46 for Malaysia and 399 for Singapore.

Handcuffing thousand of students into sub-standard schools is just as bad as denying available help for the malnourished, ill or homeless.

All city and provincial government budgets have "20 Percent Development Funds." This sets aside 20 centavos out of every peso, as funds for critical human needs: Nutrition, safe water, primary health care, disease control, etc.

Alvin Garcia's City Hall treated this P103 million kitty as a mini-pork barrel. It bought hydrants, concretes, sheds, etc. Pablo Garcia's Capitol wants to buy four wheel luxury vehicles amid the COA's complaint that the province hadn't drawn up a budget for two years.

"This neglect saw a Capitol, flush with cash, deny aid for the hungry, the sick, the shoddily-taught and those poisoned by dirty water," a DEPTHnews feature said. "It borders on the criminal."

There's basis for the criticism in the Food and Nutrition Research Institute's latest survey of ill-fed children under five years old.

Chronic hunger leaves 34 out of every 100 children in Cebu underweight and listless. That's two more than the national total.

Almost 42 children here out of every 100 are stunted by malnutrition, similar to backward Eastern Samar figures. And four are wasted, about half the numbers set by Lanao del Sur.

In Cebu's bigger cities, the ill-fed are like Lazarus at the rich man's gate: They blend, unseen, into the woodwork.

In Mandaue City, 36 out of every 100 children are underweight—higher than rural Tawi-tawi's 33. The figures for Cebu and Toledo cities are comparable to Cotabato's and Davao del Sur's—34.

Such realities on the ground mock what officials claim.

ARLENE SOLIS CHUA

REELECTED Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia and daughter Gwen celebrate after Garcia's victory, one that would mean more headache days for the elder Garcia as he faces some of the country's toughest problems in governance.

"Although Cebu is a premier province, it does not have new vehicles for its officials, like Siquijor or Bohol," Governor Garcia once complained.

Cavalier attitude

By obsolete yardsticks, like population, income or tax base, the claims that Cebu is the country's "Queen City of the South" or "Premiere Province" sounds reasonable.

But the claims do not factor in new indicators—functional literacy, enrolment, survival age until 60, poverty thresholds, etc.

Cebu slides, the Human Development Report 2000 says, to slot No. 26 out of 77 provinces.

Such a cavalier attitude toward public funds is sparking demands for greater transparency.

Citizens race with commentators in complaining of bloated city debts.

In letters-to-the-editors, Hilda Coronel Laya recalled that Mayor Osmeña, who negotiated for Japanese loans (when he was mayor from 1989 to 1995), "cynically lulled Cebuanos into believing that all those yen-denominated loans were a free lunch.. That was bullshit."

Briefings for the City Hall transition team show that Osmeña agreed to denominate the loans in yen. Neither did he hedge, with insurance against currency rate fluctuations, leaving Cebuanos with hefty charges.

"When the bills—for principal, interest and currency depreciation—fall due, that's when the fat lady starts to sing," the Sun*Star Daily warned years back.

"Who is that singing?" Cebuanos will ask at next week's oath-taking ceremonies.

A daughter writes to her father

By GWENDOLYN GARCIA
Cebu City

(The author is the daughter of Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia)

IF SOMEONE had told you, when you were a boy, walking barefoot in the barrio, somewhere in those five kilometers between your house and your school, that the people of Cebu would one day elect you to a historic, unprecedented third term (in the post-Edsa era) as their governor, I doubt very much if you would have lost a step, to stop and bask in the promise of that future glory.

No, you had more important things to think about on an empty stomach. School. Lunch. Shoes. And, in general, how to eke out an education under those circumstances; circumstances under which others had been known to fail, or to simply give up. The future, much more the glory, must have been farthest from your mind.

You must have taken everything one step—one barefoot step—at a time: Class valedictorian in elementary school, class valedictorian in high school.

In junior college, you had all of one good shirt and one good pair of pants to wear to school. The nightly washing and drying must have been a welcome refuge from the harshness of the city. You nearly didn't graduate because you boycotted ROTC, not out of some desire to be a conscientious objector, but simply because you didn't have the money to buy a uniform. You finally saved up enough to buy one from a war surplus shop, sold at a bargain price; perfect, really, except for a bayonet hole in its breast. And you graduated, with highest honors.

In awe

Law school was the same story all over again: Valedictorian, magna cum laude; excellence in the midst of adversity. Your dean gave you a dressing down for your refusal to take the mandated bar review course in Manila. "Who you think you are?" he demanded to know, threatening not to accredit you as a graduate of your school. What he didn't know was that you weren't simply being stubborn; you simply had no money to comply. And yet, you placed third in that bar exam, the highest that school had ever achieved. The school not only embraced you; they held a parade in your honor.

How you did it; how you pulled it off amid these little stories of great hardships—we, your children, remain absolutely in awe. We have subsequently been judged by the exacting standards you have set, and we have paled in comparison to the greatness of your achievements as well as your hardships. But we do not mind. We gaze at a distant star, but we bask in its reflected light.

'You remember'

The greatness of it all is that you remembered. After all these years, you remember. Not the fame, not the power, not the influence that success in politics brings with it have caused you to forget those long, barefoot walks for a future that seemed almost impossible to reach.

You remained humble. When you were in Congress, you would invariably be asked why you were squeezing yourself into an economy seat, when one of your children you didn't know was on the same plane, was living it up in the business class. "I guess it's because he's the son (or daughter) of a congressman," you would say, "and I am not."

Not the worst of politics has soiled you. "I am old," you would tell us. "If I start being corrupt now, I don't think I will have the time to redeem the name I intend to leave to you. Those long, barefoot walks must have taught you well: There are no shortcuts to success. One wrong step could cause a fall."

I know what you think of this historic, unprecedented third term: Three more years of hard work. But we, your children, wish you would, for one brief moment, lose a step, stop and bask in the honor you so richly deserve. The way you never would have done, had someone told you, when you were a boy, walking barefoot in the barrio, the honor that, someday, the people of Cebu would give you.

Sheer ignorance

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

CAN the government legally stop a radio station from airing interviews with Abu Sayyaf bandit leaders?

No. So it has tapped the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) to do the hatchet job.

Some leaders of that "social club" went on to warn officials of Radio Mindanao Network (RMN)—the network that has been getting all the scoops—that it faced sanctions, including the cancellation of franchise, for giving Abu Sabaya and his cohorts all the airtime they needed.

This is sheer ignorance of media work. Reporters have the primary duty to inform the public about the war in Basilan. If they can't tell the story based on their personal knowledge, then according to not only the government's point of view but, whenever possible, also to the point of view of all parties in the conflict.

The public may then have enough basis to decide which side's propaganda is closer to fiction.

In a crisis situation, a media outfit may properly restrain itself, for a limited period, from broadcasting or publishing details of a military operation, or other stories that will likely jeopardize the safety of hostages and soldiers. Outside these circumstances, a good case can be made against censorship.

It's pathetic that the KBP, which some people expect to protect freedom of speech, is now leading the assault on that very freedom. Or are expectations simply too high?

After all, wasn't the KBP conceived during martial law as Ferdinand Marcos' instrument of media repression, a role it acted out perfectly in the guise of "self-regulation?"

Today, self-regulation remains the group's buzzword. Is it still doing the dirty work for the government?

* * *

GAG ORDER. In Cebu City, a different gag order has been issued to media, ironically by the institution that's mandated by the Constitution to ensure transparency in government.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro, erstwhile "Karaoke King," recently decreed that henceforth, all complaints filed with his office are deemed "confidential."

Miro's edict repealed a pact with media leaders last year when he guaranteed reporters' access to documents in the Ombudsman office. The only condition was, to ensure that malicious and scurrilous materials didn't get printed or broadcast, the complaints must be signed and subscribed to.

"Case fixing" was the first thing that entered many suspicious reporters' mind. With the Ombudsman operating in Mafia-like secrecy, the media will have no way of knowing who are being charged with what offense, and how the cases are being handled and finally resolved.

It turned out, however, that Miro underestimated the media. Unable to get anything from the Ombudsman, the journalists now get the complaints straight from their sources. A notice posted on a wall near Miro's office explains the reporters' predicament.

* * *

BETRAYAL. Should Lito Osmeña kiss his political ambitions goodbye?

Still smarting from the Promdi chieftain's "act of betrayal" in the last elections, dozens of his former loyalists recently defected to the administration Lakas-NUCD party.

Leading the exodus were the Martinez couple—Rep. Clavel and defeated vice gubernatorial candidate Celestino Jr.—who have become Lito's most vocal enemies.

Their gripe? Not only did Lito not provide funds for Promdi candidates, he also reportedly junked Celestino in favor of his nephew John-John, an Alayon bet.

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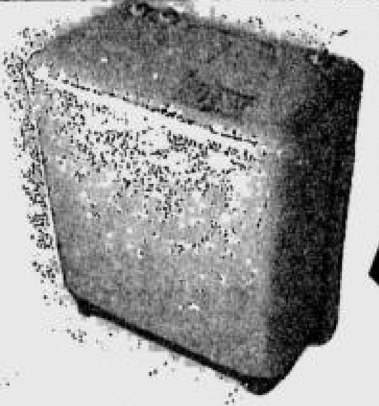

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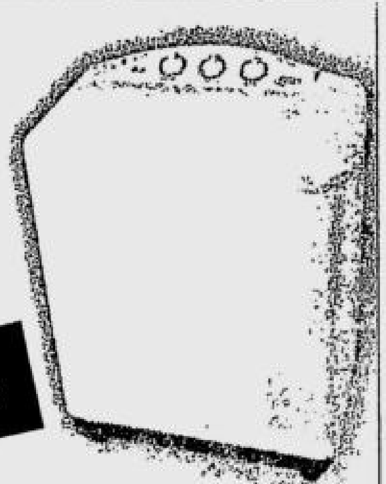

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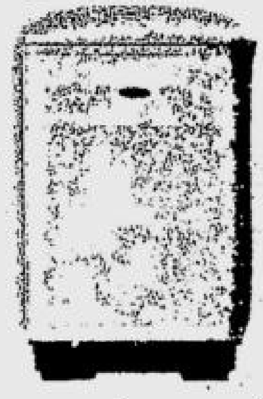

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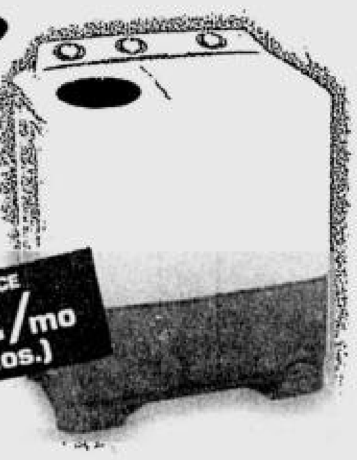

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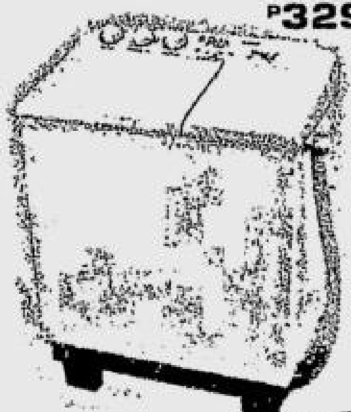

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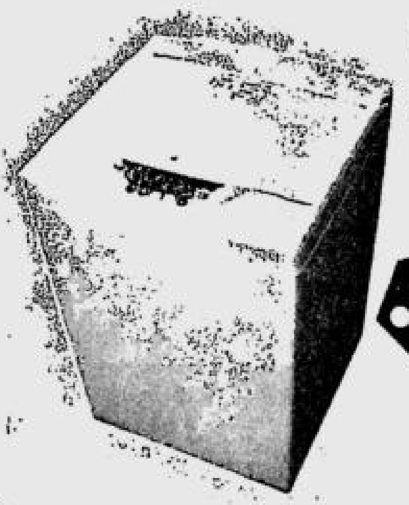

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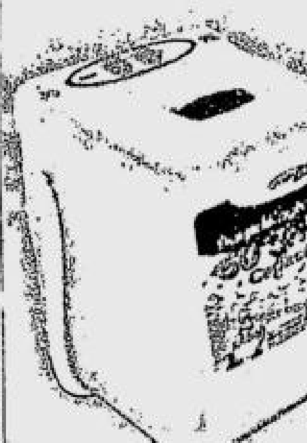

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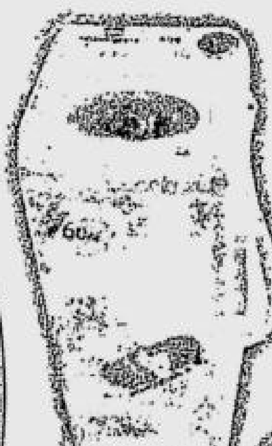

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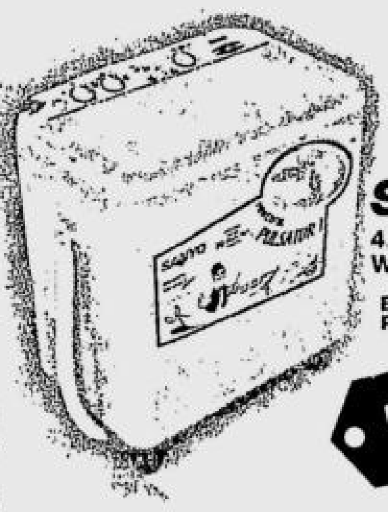

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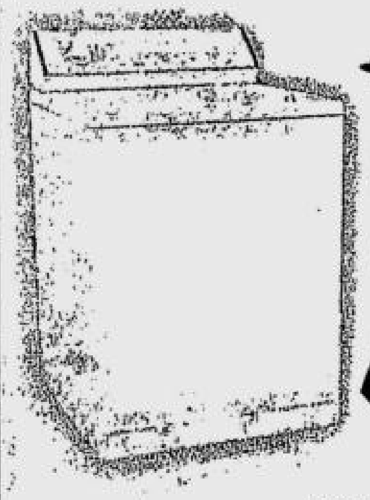

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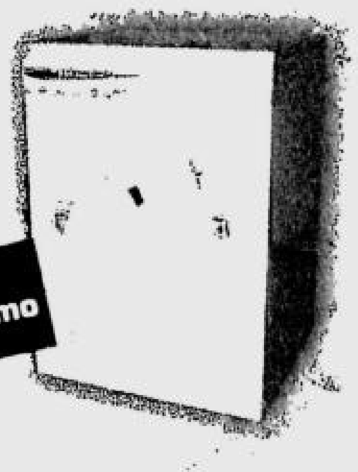

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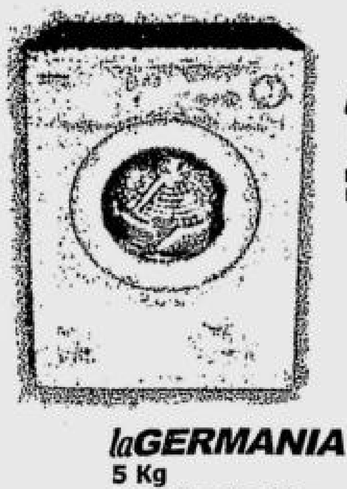

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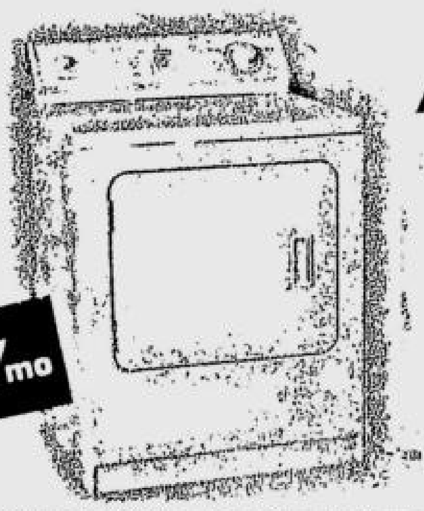

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SC rejects TV trial for Erap

(From page A1)

The justices said that a public trial "only implies that the court doors must be open to those who wish to come, sit in the available seats, conduct themselves with decorum and observe the trial process."

Those who dissented were Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Justices Josue Bellosillo, Jose Melo, Reynato Puno, Artemio Panganiban and Leonardo Quisumbing.

Aside from Justice Jose Vitug who penned the decision, those who voted to deny media coverage were Santiago Kapunan, Vicente Mendoza, Bernardo Pardo, Arturo Buena, Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, Sabino de Leon Jr., and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez. Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago is on leave.

Devoid of histrionics

While it "is not all that unmindful of recent technological and scientific advances, to chance forthwith the life or liberty of any person in a hasty bid to use and apply them, even before ample safety nets are provided and the concerns expressed are aptly addressed, is a price too high to pay," the high court said.

"A verdict that would come only after the presentation of credible evidence testified to by unbiased witnesses, unswayed by any kind of pressure, whether open or subtle, in proceedings that are devoid of histrionics that might detract them from its basic aim to ferret veritable facts free from influence," the ruling said.

It noted that any judgment should be proven in "a trial that is not lifted above its individual settings nor made an object of public attention and where the conclusions reached are induced not by any outside force or influence."

The court acknowledged that witnesses and judges "may very well be men and women of fortitude able to thrive in hardy climate with every reason to presume firmness of mind and resolute endurance."

However, the tribunal said, while the "conscious or unconscious effect that such a coverage may have on the testimony of witnesses and the decision of judges cannot be evaluated . . . it is not at all unlikely for a vote of guilt or innocence to yield to it."

The court likewise pointed out that Estrada's cases with the Sandiganbayan "are of great dimensions" that "undeniably, these cases have twice become the nation's focal points in the two conflicting phenomena of Edsa II and Edsa III."

"Must these events be invited anew and risk the relative stability that has thus far been achieved?" the court asked.

"The transcendental events in our midst do not allow us to turn a blind eye to yet another possible extraordinary case of mass action being allowed to creep into even the business of the courts in the dispensation of justice under a rule of law," the court said.

Ping: Berroya blames me to cover up his laziness

(From page A1)

terviews on camera. But once the camera is turned off, he removes his cap and handkerchief to reveal a youngish, mischievous face.

Ador comes from a middle-class family in Manila. He finished a degree in "commerce and computer science" and was engaged in the buy and sell business in 1997 when a friend whom he refused to name offered a more lucrative enterprise.

This friend, he said, was part of a group that offered to provide Ador smuggled goods that he could sell at lower prices than regular items.

"There was no capital outlay on my part. They provided canned goods. I sell, and I keep the profit. The only thing they want is for me to turn over to them the amount corresponding to the capital," Ador said.

He later shifted to selling electronic items provided by his friend. He said he eventually learned that the wares came mainly from the Bureau of Customs. Other smuggled goods were coursed through the Batangas pier.

Smuggling

During a Wednesday interview with the INQUIRER, Ador claimed Lacson was involved in the smuggling activities.

He said that in 1998, Lacson and a major partner had a falling out. "They disagreed on how much each other should get. I chose to go with Lacson when they disbanded."

Ador became a PAOCTF civilian agent shortly afterwards. He refused to go into details, but said that during his early days with the group, he witnessed the abduction and murder of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

Ador earlier said Bentain was snatched by Lacson's proteges, Senior Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino in January 1999.

Apparently, the group blamed Bentain for the release of an unauthorized video of then Vice President Joseph Estrada playing baccarat at the casino.

Allowance

Ador has executed an affidavit claiming that Lacson and his proteges, Mancao and Aquino, were behind kidnapping activities staged by the PAOCTF.

Ador said that he had participated in some of these operations, acting as a "surveillance man" and ransom collector.

He said he received between an allowance of anywhere from P5,000 to P20,000.

"I never earned anything from those operations. The small amount given to me was also used to pay other informants who supplied details about a target's movements," he said.

Ador said that while the group members were always promised equal shares in ransom payments, "I never got big amounts."

Sleeping on job

Lacson claimed police officials and journalists were mounting a "demolition job" against him.

Ador's "accusations are clearly products of sick minds. There is no list of targets. The list only exists in the minds of Ador and his handlers," Lacson added.

He dared Ador to come forward to substantiate his charges and make his accusations under oath rather than to the press.

Lacson said he was in favor of a Senate investigation into Ador's allegations that the former PAOCTF head ordered several kidnappings.

Lacson earlier said he would not talk to Senate reporters until he officially assumes the post of senator at noon today.

"Have they rescued any victim of kidnapping? No. What they do is that when kidnappings happen, they say this is part of a destabilization plot. They say Lacson is behind it, to cover their incompetence," said the former Philippine National Police chief.

According to him, Berroya and other PNP officials are sleeping on the job.

"What's wrong with them is that they are too lazy to work. They are often playing golf and drinking their time away . . . And then when they can't solve their problems, they point an accusing finger at me," Lacson said.

He also said he would not engage in any destabilization moves or any criminal acts, especially now that he is a senator. "I would like to assure these people that never in my wildest imagination will this ever happen," he said.

Audience with GMA

Ador has been asking for an audience with the President since he went public with his confessions.

He claimed that Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza called him on Thursday night to ask whether he was prepared to meet the President on short notice.

"Mendoza called at 9 p.m. I said I could meet them in 10 minutes wherever they chose. At 11:30 p.m., somebody else called to say there is still no reply from the President," Ador told the INQUIRER.

Ador said Mendoza hinted that Malacañang prefers that he first undergo a polygraph test.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco already explained to Ador during a meeting Wednesday that this is standard procedure.

Ador said he was having second thoughts about submitting to a polygraph test after his lawyer advised him that the results would not be admissible in court.

"If I fail the test, does it mean the authorities won't help me anymore?" he added.

"I'm not scared of a polygraph test. I only want to give the President a more detailed account of what I know. What is contained in my statement is just skimming the surface," he said.

'NBI agents'

Persons identifying themselves as "NBI agents" have been calling Ador regularly on his cellular phone to check on him, he said.

Ador said his family's safety is foremost in his mind right now. The calls from the alleged agents of the National Bureau of Investigation disturb him.

Ador said whenever they call, "their voices suddenly become faint, as if talking from afar. That's a sign that they are trying to trace me."

He claimed he was familiar with this kind of activity because of his exposure to surveillance and eavesdropping activities at the PAOCTF.

"They try to trace you on the phone. When I sensed that this was what they were doing, I immediately turned off my phone," he said.

'Bad script'

He claimed that in a meeting in Marikina on the evening of May 11, Lacson handed a group a list of 15 names of kidnap targets inside a folder, which he allegedly gave directly to Mancao and Aquino.

The names belonged mostly to prominent businessmen or their relatives, and anti-Estrada personalities, he said.

Aside from denying the kidnap plots, Lacson scoffed at the story about the May 11 meeting, saying he was at the miting de avance of LDP-Puwersa ng Masa at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City that night.

"If you remember, I was in hiding then because of the rebellion case filed against me. It was only during that miting de avance when I showed my face for the first time," Lacson said in an interview with radio station dzBB.

People who attended the miting de avance said that Lacson arrived at 8:30 p.m. and left before midnight.

"The problem with these people is that they wrote a very bad script. They should have done their research first," Lacson fumed in Filipino.

Mancao, in a separate interview, said he was among those charged with rebellion by the Department of Justice and was also in hiding at the time Ador claimed he was in Marikina.

Lacson complained that although the election season had already ended, his detractors would still not relent.

"It doesn't make sense at all. I don't understand why they are still doing this when we are done with the elections already," he said.

Media

Lacson also blasted the media, accusing it of being part of the supposed plot to link him to kidnappings and killings allegedly carried out by the defunct anti-crime body.

In an interview with dzMM, Lacson said that when he assumed the post as PNP chief, he put a stop to a "payola" system involving "media personalities at the PNP" as beneficiaries.

"There are several names listed. It was a practice before where millions were given to media personnel monthly," he claimed.

He said he had ordered the PNP comptroller to stop the practice and give the money to the police.

"I remember that the biggest amount given out was P250,000 (for one person) a month. Maybe this is now the time for some media men to hit me back. I can only speculate on that because there was really a payroll and payola in the PNP," he said.

He said he did not want to reveal this, but now "there are media personalities who are after my neck."

"Maybe, it is time that our people should know the background on why there are people who insist on hitting me without basis, to the point of reporting things that are libelous," he said, adding that the list is still with the comptroller.

'Butcher of Balkans' to face UN crimes trial

(From page A1)

mitted in the wars in Bosnia and Croatia in the 1990s.

His extradition set off fresh political discord in Belgrade but bolstered the country's hopes of getting $1.25 billion in reconstruction aid from western donors during a donors' conference set to open in Brussels later yesterday.

"We did it. Now it's your turn," said Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Miroljub Labus.

Yugoslavia's government has drawn up an economic recovery plan that requires funding of almost $4 billion over three to four years to rebuild the nation after 13 years of Milosevic's economic mismanagement, international sanctions and Nato's 1999 bombing campaign.

The country hopes to get $1.25 billion this year.

The five states (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia) that made up the communist-era Yugoslav federation yesterday signed in Vienna an accord on dividing up its assets.

The agreement provides for the sharing of nearly $1 billion in currency reserves as well as diplomatic buildings and bonds and debts.

Milosevic, whose Serb nationalism ignited a decade of war and ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, had been in a Belgrade prison since April 1, when he was arrested for domestic charges of corruption during his 12 years in power.

Rift deepened

He was flown to The Hague hours after a series of dramatic events when Yugoslavia's top court froze his planned handover, only to be overruled by the Serbian government.

The extradition deepened a rift between Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, who ordered it, and Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica, who reportedly heard about it in the media afterwards.

The process of bringing Milosevic to The Hague began on Thursday afternoon in Belgrade when he was placed under the custody of officials from the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia. He was flown to a Nato air base in Tuzla, in neighboring Bosnia.

MILOSEVIC

There, he was put on a Nato Orion-type plane and flown to the Netherlands. He was brought to the detention center by helicopter at 1 a.m. local time (7 a.m. Manila time).

Television video of his arrival showed the white-haired former president being led by two guards across a yard in the Scheveningen jail to the tribunal's detention center.

Still at-large

Another 38 people being tried for crimes in the former Yugoslavia already occupy the special UN unit in the Dutch jail.

His handover leaves his former protégé Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb president, and the former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic as the most wanted of 25 suspects indicted by The Hague tribunal who are still at large.

The current Serbian President, Milan Milutinovic, had also been indicted by the court for war crimes allegedly committed in Kosovo. But there is no evidence to indicate he will be extradited soon.

The United States had made Milosevic's handover to the UN court a condition of continued support, and leaders around the world hailed the surprise move as a step forward for Yugoslavia and the end of a long struggle to bring the former Yugoslav strongman to justice.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said: "It is a day few had imagined, but many had hoped for. It is a day that will be remembered not for vengeance, but for justice. It is a victory for accountability over impunity."

Crisis in Yugoslavia

But in Yugoslavia, the dramatic move threatened to plunge the Balkan country into a political crisis.

Kostunica denounced the handover as "illegal and unconstitutional." Others accused Serb Prime Minister Djindjic, who spearheaded the decision, of "treason" and buckling under US pressure.

About 3,000 Milosevic supporters held a rally Thursday night in Belgrade, chanting, "Treason." Some turned on television crews covering the demonstration.

Milosevic was ousted in a popular uprising in October after he attempted to overturn presidential elections where he was beaten by Kostunica, a moderate nationalist.

He was indicted two years ago for atrocities committed in Kosovo.

His 5-by-3-meter prison cell in The Hague will be a far cry from the luxury of the presidential palace, but it will have en-suite shower, satellite television and a coffee maker.

Inmates in the UN wing spend much of their time outside their rooms, and have access to television, a fully equipped gym, an outdoor courtyard, a library, a recreation room, a prison shop and a religion room for prayer.

They may take courses in arts, languages and sciences. They also have the opportunity to see visitors.

Just like Hitler

Milosevic's new neighbors in The Hague are mostly pretty glad he moved in yesterday.

"I'm glad he's here to face justice," said a Dutch housewife.

"I'm glad for the people down there in Yugoslavia that they've finally got him here," said café owner Guus.

"It's good he's here," said 80-year-old pensioner Jacques de Boer.

"I remember Adolf Hitler. This one's just like him." *Inquirer Wires*

Bicol NGO tells Mike: Thanks but...

(From page A1).

Arroyo, but please go beyond your birthday gesture of generosity to those displaced by the eruptions of Mayon Volcano.

The Oplan Sagip Bayan-Bicol Operations posed this challenge Thursday to Arroyo, who, a day earlier, marked his 55th birthday by bringing medical aid and distributing truckloads of food packs to the displaced residents of Albay.

But the group also directed the challenge to the First Gentleman's wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo, a daughter of Pampanga in Central Luzon that was battered by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and lahar avalanches a decade ago.

It urged the President to immediately order an assessment of the disaster response management efforts by government agencies and private groups in the Mayon area.

In so doing, it said, she would hopefully be able to determine if these efforts matched the actual needs of the victims and the expected needs of the next batches of evacuees.

"The Oplan Sagip Bayan is not undermining the sincerity of Mr. Arroyo," Aida Ishikawa, head of the group's national secretariat, said in a statement issued in Pampanga.

"We are afraid, however, that such a gesture tends to cover up the inadequacies in the government's response to the Mayon disaster, especially now that Alert Level No. 5 is up and lahar flows are expected with the occurrence of rains in the area," she said.

Alert Level No. 5, raised by the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology in Legazpi City, indicates that another immediate eruption is anticipated.

The volcano erupted again yesterday. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Distraction

Ishikawa said that while Arroyo's visit provided some sense of relief to the distressed families, it also deflected attention from "the real magnitude of the disaster."

She noted the lack of evacuation support to the residents, the absence of an information system, and the insufficiency of temporary shelters, water and food supply, sleeping materials, medicines, and stress management assistance.

"Again, classrooms are being used as evacuation centers," she said, adding that this usual practice was not only displacing students but also inconveniencing the evacuees.

According to Ishikawa, all these show the unsystematic and inadequately planned emergency measures of the government, which should have learned from the Pinatubo eruptions that wrought havoc in the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

"It seems that the government has not learned its lessons well. In the case of Mayon, the responses appear to be still reactive and piecemeal," Ishikawa said.

The Oplan Sagip Bayan, a national coalition of organizations and individuals helping disaster-affected communities, said it was expecting more from the President.

"Her own province was battered by Pinatubo's eruptions and lahar flows, which linger up to now. She has seen how thousands of lahar victims suffered in cramped evacuation centers with insufficient relief assistance," Ishikawa said.

As a senator in 1991, Ms Macapagal authored the law creating the Mt. Pinatubo Commission.

She helped work for the release of P10 billion for initial relief, resettlement and rehabilitation programs in the three provinces.

"It is ironic that she has not made such an initiative now that she is President," Ishikawa said.

Mayon erupts anew . . .

(From page A1)

flowing through Bonga and Basud gullies and other channels in the southeast quadrant and moving toward the towns of Daraga, Sto. Domingo and this city.

This also means that eruption is in progress with ash column reaching 6 kilometers or 20,000 feet above sea level.

Laguerta said the danger zone in the southeast quadrant might be extended further to a 10-kilometer radius depending on the severity of Mayon's eruptions.

Sulfur dioxide and other gas emissions were recorded at 1,700 tons during the last 12 hours of monitoring, more than three times the normal rate.

Laguerta said that ash suspended in the air was dangerous to all types of aircraft.

Immediately before the explosion, Phivolcs seismic network detected at least seven short duration harmonic tremors.

Mayon started showing signs of activity early this year. On Sunday, Albay residents saw and heard its explosive eruption that sent plumes of ash 5 kilometers in the air.

Mayon is one of the most active volcanoes in the world.

Up to 80,000 people were displaced in February 2000 during Mayon's last eruption. The most destructive was in 1814 that claimed the lives of 1,200 people and buried an entire town in volcanic mud.

Evacuees

As of yesterday, the number of people housed at 35 evacuation centers swelled to more than 45,000, according to Cedric Daep, Provincial Disaster Management Office (PDMO) chief.

Daep said the funds for food and other support services earlier estimated to last for two weeks may only last for a week because of the big number of evacuees.

Overcrowding at the evacuation centers is making acute pulmonary infection, the most serious threat to health, according to Dr. Veronica Madulid, the provincial health officer.

To avoid water-borne diseases like diarrhea and cholera, the PDMO has installed at least two mobile water purifiers and has distributed water-purifying tablets.

Col. Dante Bonifacio, commander of Task Force Mayon, yesterday said that they had increased the number of 6 x 6 military trucks for emergency evacuation and rescue operation to 28.

He said that they had called up military reservists in Albay province to augment regular troops already committed to Task Force Mayon.

More men and vehicles could be commissioned if needed, according to Bonifacio.

Knights exact revenge; Eagles win

Kidd traded to NJ Nets

PHOENIX—The Phoenix Suns are sending first-team All-NBA point guard Jason Kidd to the New Jersey Nets for point guard Stephon Marbury.

Suns owner Jerry Colangelo confirmed the deal at a news conference Thursday afternoon. He said other players would be involved, but Kidd and Marbury were the main components of the deal.

"The rest is mainly just to make salary-cap numbers work," Colangelo said.

The deal could not be made official until July 18 because of base compensation and contract issues, Colangelo said. But the agreement has already been made between the teams.

The stunning trade signals a complete makeover for a Suns team that had been built around Kidd. The franchise had experienced sagging attendance in recent seasons, and Kidd's off-court problems had added to the Suns' woes.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers added another outside shooter Thursday, acquiring guard Lindsey Hunter from the Milwaukee Bucks for backup center Greg Foster. *AP*

BY ROY LUARCA

Games Tomorrow (San Luis Sports Complex)
Sta. Cruz, Laguna
3:00 p.m.—Davao vs Socsargen
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Laguna

WHEN they put their mind into it, the Andok's San Juan Knights can really be mean and deadly.

Employing a relentless defense and scoring in buckets, the Knights exacted revenge over the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 108-75, last night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the San Juan Gym.

The Knights, who celebrated the return of head coach Philip Cezar after serving a two-game suspension, rose to the top with their sixth win in eight starts. More important, it erased the ignominy of a 137-105 rout dealt them by the Gems in their first encounter in Cebu City.

Bruce Dacia, hands out choice for best player of the game, struck for 17 points in the second quarter as the Knights turned the game around from a 10-point deficit (17-7) to a 10-point spread (45-35) at interval.

There was no stopping the reigning national titlists from there, as Chris Calaguio, Randy Alcantara and Omanzie Rodriguez also got hot and towed the Knights to their first 33-point bulge, 101-68, with only 2 minutes and 37 seconds left.

To offset the absence of starting center Rafi Reavis, who rested anew due to back spasms, the Knights double-teamed Mitchell every time he had the ball and also clamped down on three-point gunners Stephen Padilla and Al Solis.

Earlier, the Davao Eagles caught the Negros Slashers out-of-sync and went on to tally a surprising 105-101 victory.

Rookie Peter June Simon sparked the Eagles' fourth quarter surge and the veterans lit it up as they snapped a five-game losing spell at the expense of the favored Slashers, who beat them 96-92 in their first encounter in Davao.

Yesterday, however, the Eagles appeared sharper and more determined.

Meanwhile, FedEx Laguna ace Chris Clay was slapped a P4,000 fine for vehemently protesting the referees' non-call on Gem Carlos Sayon off dunk attempt against the Gems Wednesday night. It merited Clay 2 technical fouls for an automatic ejection. Laguna coach Bonnie Garcia was fined P2,000 for the same offense though the Gems went on to win, 100-95.

The scores:

DAVAO 105—Manigo 22, Romy Dela Rosa 19, Bernardo 17, Caliao 16, Marata 10, Simon 7, Menor 6, Almonte 5, Daja 3.

NEGROS 101—Ruben dela Rosa 16, Ignacio 14, Ferriols 12, White 12, Cardel 11, Huelar 8, Benedicto 5, Bat-og 4, Madrid 3, Aldeguer 2, Hugnatan 2.

Quarters: 25-28, 49-58, 75-77, 105-101.

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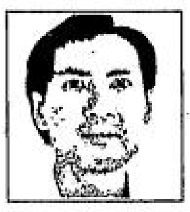
Youngsters in spotlight

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

WITH youthful turks such as Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Vince Carter and Kevin Garnett already holding center stage, the NBA figures to be much younger when the cast of players chosen in this year's NBA draft joins the league in November.

Expectedly, youth once again prevailed in the draft held last June 27 in New York as a record 24 early-entry prospects were tabbed in the first round of the grab-bag. They were either prep seniors (four, another record), US college undergraduates (including four freshmen) or underaged stars from the international ranks (four).

It was the highest number of early-entry first-round draftees in NBA history, shattering the old mark of 18 set a year ago.

Noteworthy is the dominance of big men (6-10 or taller) in the draft. Then again, the draft is bereft of players who are potential franchise-makers or instant stars. Only a select few are expected to contribute right away.

Overall, it's a lean harvest, perhaps even leaner than last year's crop when only several players won starting roster berths and a 1997 second-round draftee with multiyear playing experience overseas (6-10 Golden State frontliner Marc Jackson of Temple University) even earned NBA Rookie of the Month honors twice December and January) and eventually placed third in the balloting for the five-man NBA All-Rookie First Team.

The Washington Wizards utilized the first overall pick in the 2001 draft on 6-11 power forward Kwame Brown of Glynn Academy High School in Brunswick, Georgia, making him the first ever prep schooler in NBA draft history to be selected No. 1.

With the No. 2 choice, the LA Clippers tabbed another preppie, 7-foot center Tyson Chandler of Dominguez HS in Compton, California, then immediately shipped his draft rights along with three-year veteran forward Brian Skinner to the Chicago Bulls for forward Elton Brand, the 2000 NBA co-Rookie of the Year who has averaged at least 20 points and 10 rebounds in each of his two pro seasons.

Two other high school seniors made it to the top eight. With their own No. 4 pick, the Bulls secured another player without any collegiate apprenticeship in 6-11 center Eddy Curry of Thornwood HS in South Holland, Illinois. At No. 8, the Cleveland Cavaliers went for 7-foot Senegalese DeSagana Diop of Oak Hill Academy in Virginia.

Of the six early-entry high school candidates, five were drafted—the four first-rounders and 6-9 Mali native Cusmane Cisse of St. Jude Catholic HS in Montgomery, Alabama, the Denver Nuggets' second-round pick (No. 47 overall) whose leg injury impaired his draft stock.

Six of the seven early-entry eligibles form the international scene also made the draft grace. The highest selection was 7-foot Pau Gasol of Spain's F.C. Barcelona, whom the Atlanta Hawks took with the third pick overall but are scheduled to trade his draft rights, along with veterans forward-center Lorenzen Wright and guard Brevin knight, to the Vancouver Grizzlies (whose application for relocation to Memphis is expected to be approved by the NBA Board of Governors soon) on July 18 for five-year-forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim, who has averaged at least 20 points the past four seasons.

In addition to the transfers of Brand and Abdur-Rahim, several veterans also were traded on Draft Day. Orlando sent center Michael Doleac to Cleveland for the draft rights to the Cavaliers' first-round draftee (No. 20 overall), 7-foot Brendan Haywood of North Carolina and one of only four college seniors chosen in the initial turn. The Sacramento Kings peddled playmaker Jason Williams and swingman Nick Anderson to the Grizzlies for point guards Mike Bibby and Brent Price.

'MOTO' CHAMP
Seven-time champion Jovie Saulog of Shell-Yamaha Racing Team dominated the pro 125 category in the fifth leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Ormoc and PLDT at the Ormoc Sports Complex recently. Saulog defeated Glen Aguilar of Caltex in the event organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and supported by MAD and Kids Foundation.

Roligon 4-cock derby on today

ANOTHER set of exciting fights will be seen with the holding of the Black Manta 4-Cock Derby today, June 30, at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by Dante Eustaquio, known as "The Mystery Cocker of San Juan," this derby will be participated in by popular cockers such as Boy Lechon, Rudy Salud, Boy Gamilla, and Mini Itchon, Charlie Gayoso, Bulljack and Co., members of the Ucap, the Pasay Group and the Araneta Group.

Provincial cockers who also confirmed their participation in this derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. are Art Lopez of Bacolod, Louie Kua, Ruel Ricaford, Atty. Santos, Lito Orrilasa and William Go.

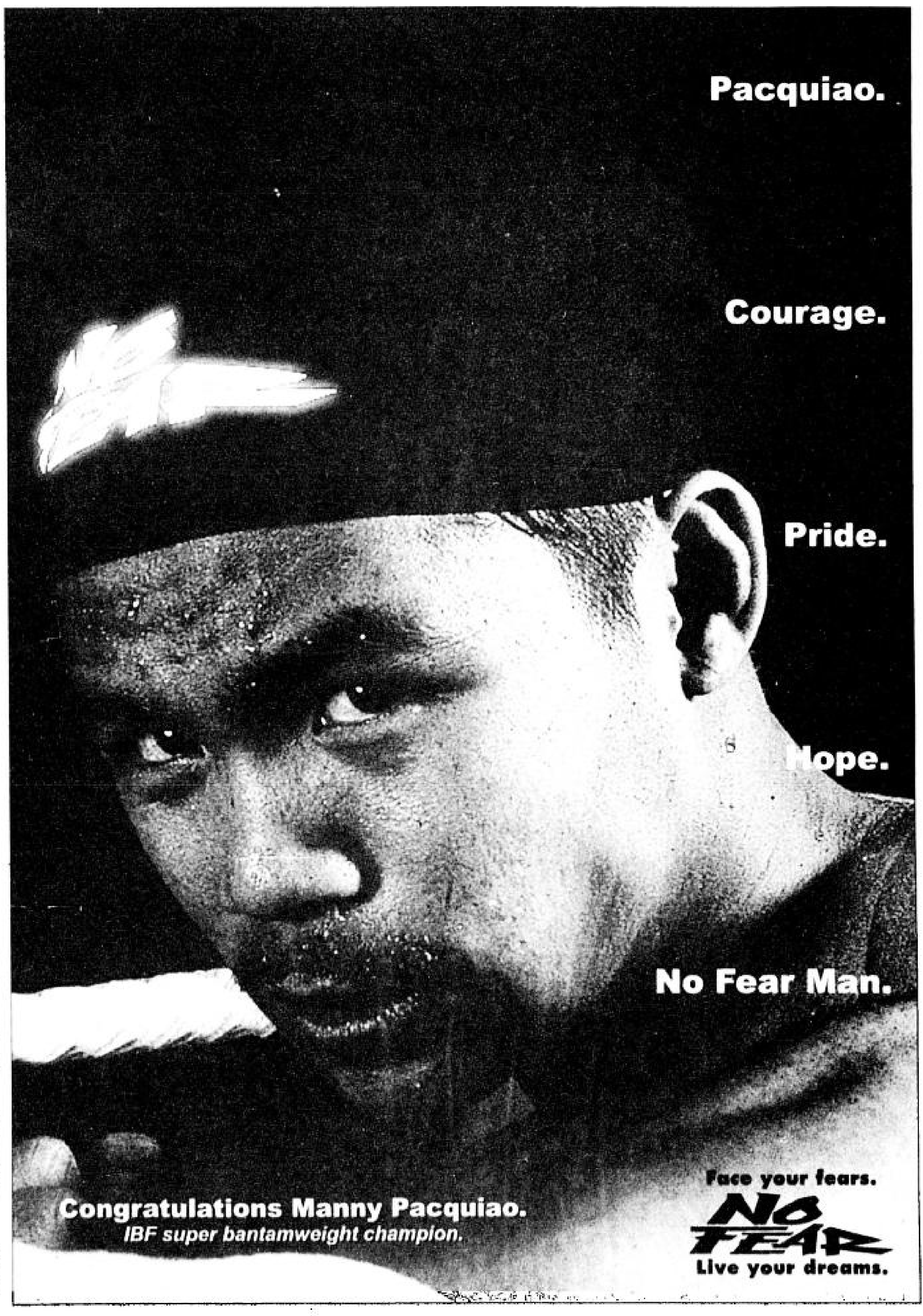
Promoter Danny (Showdown) Ty, known for his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," said that submission of weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg is today from 6 to 11 a.m. He also said that fights will start at exactly 7 p.m.

Other 4-cock derbies scheduled at Roligon are: July 3—Bulljack hosted by Bulljack & Co., July 7—Charlie by Charlie Gayoso and July 14—Tukaan by Emoy Gorgonio.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: SBK Superbike Highlights at 9 a.m. on Star Sports
2001 Formula One Qualifying—French Grand Prix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: Wimbledon—Day 5 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 4 p.m.), Day 5, Third Round at 11:30 a.m. (r), Day 6, Third Round at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r–8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA Inside Stuff at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
2001 NBA Draft at 6 p.m. on ESPN
WNBA Action at 7 p.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Canon Greater Hartford Open, Second Round at 9:30 a.m. on Star Sports
U.S. Senior Open Golf Championship - Part I, Second Round at 12 noon (r), Part II, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN



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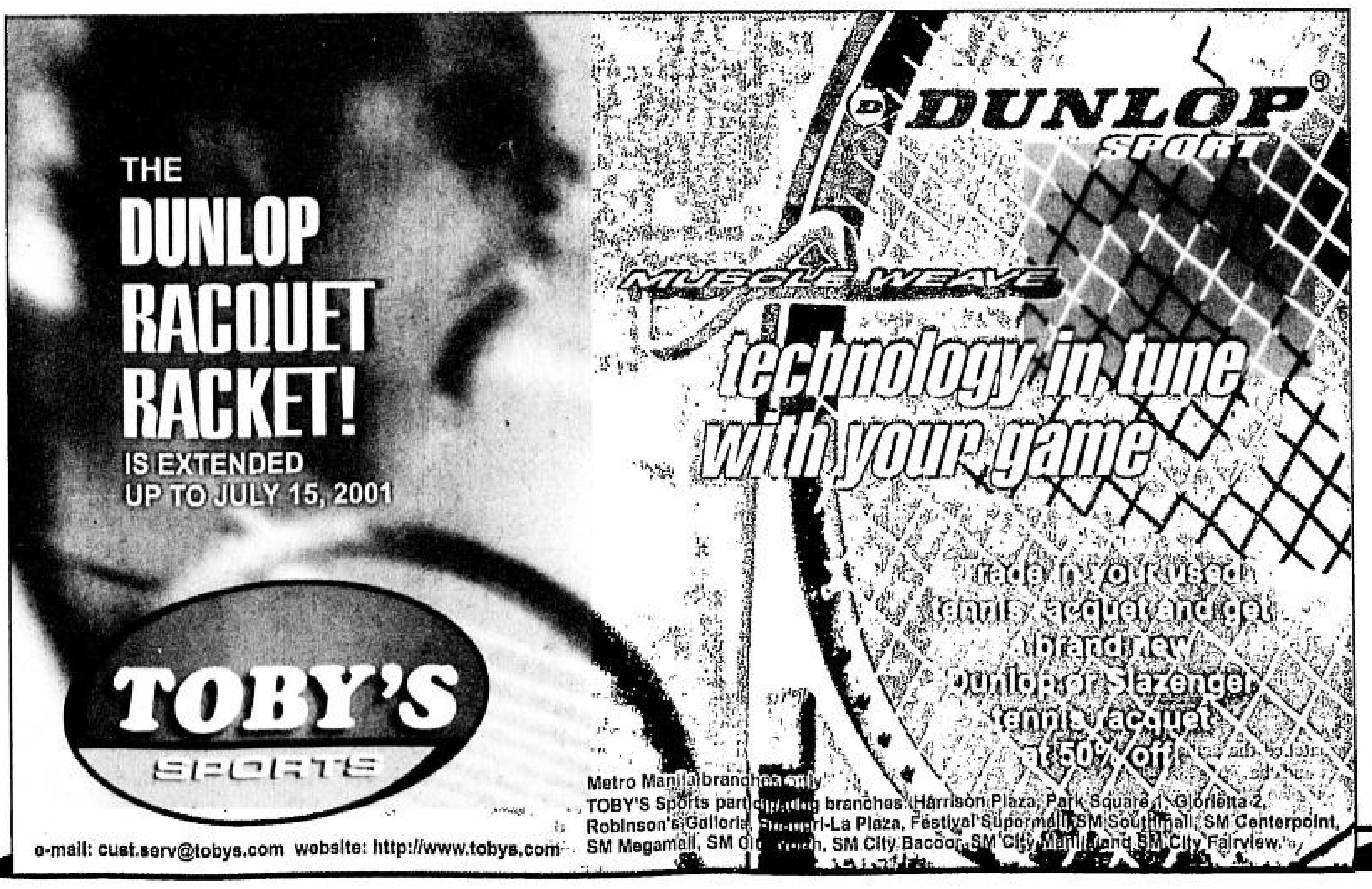

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Andre, other seeds hurdle Wimby rivals

LONDON—The hierarchy was strictly respected at Wimbledon on Thursday as the top names in the men's and women's tournaments swatted their challengers in between the first two rain showers of the week.

Andre Agassi, Australians Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov all charged into the third round to be joined by a mini-legion of Frenchmen.

In the women's event, defending champion Venus Williams of the United States was imperious as was the woman she dethroned in last year's final, compatriot Lindsay Davenport.

The blustery, changeable weather provided ideal conditions for toppling the big names, but in the event no seeds fell either in the men's or in the women's.

Bucking the trend of Grand Slam upsets in recent years, the first four days of this edition of Wimbledon has seen just one real upset, the opening day exit of top seed Martina Hingis to Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual.

Perhaps mindful of how old rival Pete Sampras had struggled through five sets the previous evening before defeating unfancied home hope Barry Cowan, second seeded Agassi was focused throughout his match against British wild card Jamie Delgado.

In a 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 rout, the American held his serve comfortably throughout and waited for the overmatched Delgado to make the mistakes, which he did without a murmur.

Despite the gap in class, Agassi, said he had taken nothing for granted.

Agassi next plays Nicolas Massu of Chile, who ousted Brazil's Fernando Meligeni in five sets.

The third-seeded Rafter, who beat the American in an epic semi-final last year, said ruefully that it was "getting tougher and tougher" for him at Wimbledon following his 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic.

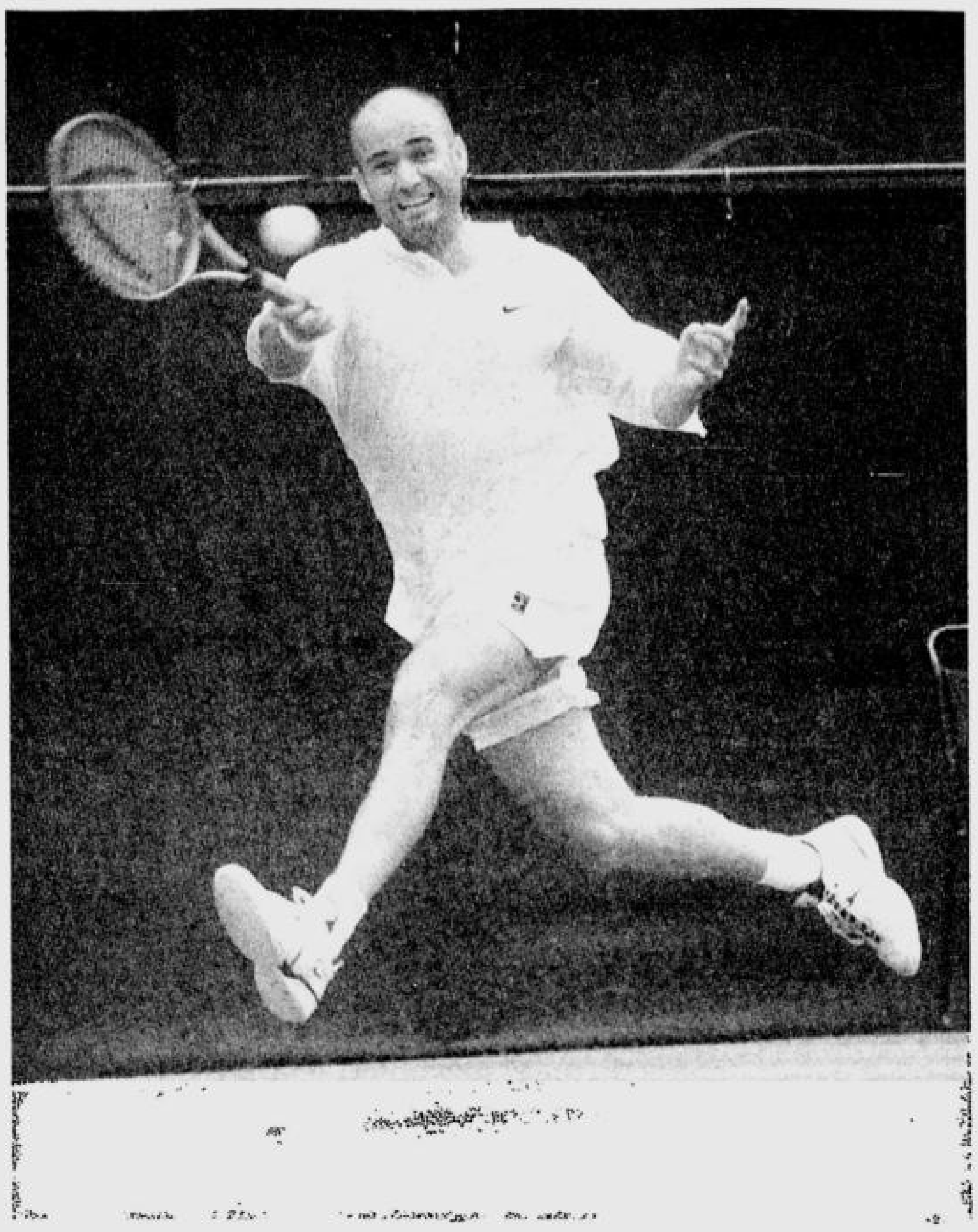
Rafter next takes on Hicham Arazi of Morocco for a place in the last 16.

The 20-year-old Dent, whose Australian father Phil reached the quarter-finals against John McEnroe in 1977, started spraying his thunderball shots and Hewitt regained his touch and control of the game to win the next two sets.

But Hewitt grabbed control of the decider from the start to run out a 1-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3 winner in just over three hours collapsing on to his back as he did so.

Seventh-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov came through in four sets against Britain's Arvind Palmer and there was a winning French trio in seventh-seeded Sebastien Grosjean, 24th-seeded Nicolas Escude and 20th-seeded Fabrice Santoro.

Seeds were also taking root in the women's tournament with Davenport, the third seed coming back off a long injury lay-off, having little trouble in disposing of Australia's Alicia Molik on Centre Court 6-4, 6-2. *AP*



AGASSI goes airborne as he returns a shot to Delgado. AP

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Lucky Gambit 2. Hinobaan's Pride 3. Pasionately 4. Filthy Rich
Race 2—1. Free Time 2. Strike It Rich 3. Inner Wheeler
Race 3—1. American Music 2. Always Florence 3. Best Gift 4. Defense Minister 5. Iron Lady
Race 4—1. Snake Dancer 2. Jhelen 3. Like A Prince 4. Diamond Star
Race 5—1. Regalberto 2. Brazen Truth 3. Magnificent Seven
Race 6—1. Mr. Lucas 2. Air Express 3. Thunder Fire 4. Dinner Dress 5. Big Kahuna
Race 7—1. Bidang Bida 2. Sharon's Cookie 3. College Gem 4. Ysabela
Race 8—1. Great Revelation 2. Tayp Ko Yan 3. Hercules 4. Lady Victoria
Race 9—1. Cherry Lane 2. Foreign Exchange 3. That's My Tiger 4. Duke Mark
Race 10—1. Proud Idol 2. Top Quest 3. Regimental Lass 4. Queen Storm 5. Lucky Choice
Race 11—1. Marinela 2. Sis Boom Bah 3. Gabriel's Pet 4. Count Me In 5. Arigato
Race 12—1. Pasikatera 2. The King 3. Swinger 4. Cubano
Race 13—1. Terminal Bound 2. Heavy Metal 3. Perfect Gift 4. Timeless Beauty 5. Champs Elysees

Gins spank Aces, 96-83

Sta. Lucia upsets San Mig

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAME TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5 p.m.—Mobiline vs Purefoods

BARANGAY Ginebra unraveled a well-cut gem of an import in Jerald Honeycutt to frustrate Alaska, 96-83, last night in the PBA Commissioners Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Ranged against the resilient Terrance Badgett, Honeycutt debuted with aplomb as he powered the Kings to their third victory after six games.

And though they both chipped in 32 points apiece, Honeycutt won the battle of imports as the NBA veteran helped bring down the Aces to a 4-2 tally.

Damien Owens starred as Sta. Lucia shocked San Miguel Beer, 91-88, in the second game. The Realtors improved to 3-3, while the Beermen fell to 4-2.

The 6-foot-7 Honeycutt, a temporary replacement for Ryan Fletcher who is suffering from a groin injury, also hauled down eight rebounds and six assists.

"Honeycutt fits Ginebra's brand of play but we still have to evaluate his performance and wait for the progress of Fletcher's injury," said Ginebra bench tactician Allan Caidic.

Aside from heaping praises on his import, Caidic also paid tribute to Jayjay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa, who relentlessly punctured the interior defense of the Aces without letup.

Both conspired with Honeycutt in the homestretch that saw the Kings build a safe eight-point lead, 91-83, to the delight of the highly partisan Ginebra crowd.

The Aces, however, unleashed their last hurrah but rookie top pick John Arigo missed two crucial treys in the last minute that eventually caused their downfall.

Breaking free from a 55 standoff late in the third, the Kings went to work and posted a 64-61 edge at the end of the quarter.

From thereon, it was a hands-down Ginebra show as the Aces local crew failed to muster enough spirit to complement the hard-working Badgett.

In another development, Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal and his Basketball Association of the Philippines prevented an eviction inside the premises of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex after securing a 20-day temporary restraining order yesterday from a Manila court.

Judge Juan Nabong, presiding judge of Branch 32 of the Manila Regional Trial Court, issued the restraining order to stop the Philippine Sports Commission from taking the BAP offices away from its occupants.

The scores:

GINEBRA 96—Honeycutt 32, Caguioa 13, David 11, Helterbrand 10, Limpot 9, Magtulis 8, Lago 7, Meneses 6, Crisano 0.

ALASKA 83—Badgett 32, Duremdes 17, Peek 14, Allado 8, Santos 6, Ordonio 2, Wallkvist 2, Arigo 2.

Quarters: 23-24, 41-37, 64-61, 96-83.

RP bets given deadline

TO GIVE aspiring national athletes more time to qualify for the coming Southeast Asian Games, sports officials gave them until July 14 to prove their worth.

Commissioner Richie Garcia of the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said there are 102 athletes more who have yet to meet the grade, forcing the joint Philippine Olympic Committee-Philippine Sports Commission SEAG Task Force to extend the deadline for the submission of lineups originally slated for today. *June Navarro*

GREEN

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Armstrong issues warning

LAUSANNE, Switzerland—American Lance Armstrong claimed the Tour de Suisse title in commanding fashion Thursday, taking over the No. 1 world ranking and issuing a stern warning to his rivals at the upcoming Tour de France. The undisputed favorite at the upcoming Tour de France, where he is looking to three-peat, Armstrong completed the 1,412.5-kilometer (877-mile) circuit in a total time of 35 hours and 6 seconds, a solid 1:02 ahead of recent Giro winner Gilberto Simoni. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore 5, Toronto 0; Chicago White Sox 6, Minnesota 3; Kansas City 9, Detroit 2; Oakland 6, Seattle 3; Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3; Texas 6, Anaheim 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 1, Milwaukee 0; Philadelphia 6, Florida 5, 1st game; Philadelphia 8, Florida 7, 2nd game; Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 2; Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 2, 10 innings; Los Angeles 7, San Diego 4. *AP*

86TH RP OPEN

Cantada trails Aussie by 1 stroke

THE LEADERS

140—David Gleeson (Aus) 70-70
141—Gerard Cantada (RP) 70-71
142—Angelo Que (RP) 69-73
143—David Bransdon (Aus) 73-70
144—Danny Zarate (RP) 74-70
146—Rick Gibson (Can) 74-72
147—Rodrigo Cuello (RP) 76-71
147—Pablo del Olmo (Mex) 69-78

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

GERARD Cantada said he misses his students. David Gleeson said he needs two sub-par rounds in the last two days to win. And Angelo Que said he might yet rewrite history by Sunday.

That was pretty much the picture of yesterday's rain-marred second round of the 86th Philippine Open at Wack Wack that marooned 15 flights on the flooded, lightning-struck course.

Cantada, 24, survived the elements to fire a 1-under-par 71 and trailed Gleeson by a stroke going to the weekend.

Gleeson, a 23-year-old from Dalby, Australia, shot a second straight 70, giving him a 2-shot lead over Que, the 22-year-old reigning amateur champion.

"I intend to hang on to my composure and who knows, I might yet make history by Sunday," said Que, who followed up his opening-day 69 with a 73 after struggling with his long irons.

The last time an amateur won the fabled Open was in 1967, through Hsu Sheng San of Taiwan.

Sentimental favorite

Cantada, the sentimental favorite mainly because he is a debuting pro on a course he calls "my second home," said winning was playing second fiddle to his students.

"I miss my students," said Cantada, a brand-new teaching pro who hasn't seen his golf students for two weeks as he prepared for the P9.5-million tournament co-presented by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer. "Winning has not yet entered my mind. Maybe, that's the reason I'm playing well. I'm just out there trying to have fun."

The "fun" saw him produce a breakthrough 10-foot birdie on the par-3 17th, Wack Wack's most difficult hole, after birdieing the par-5 14th for his nines of 36-35 and a 2-day total of 3-under-par 141.

"There was bigger pressure yesterday since it was my first competitive round as a pro," said Cantada. "But I've been putting very well the past two days, the reason why I've been scoring well I think."

Dad absent

The former junior golf standout said he also misses his father.

"My dad didn't watch me play the last two days," said Cantada, an only son. "I'll ask him to come over tomorrow."

Gleeson, whose best finish as a pro was 6th in the Indian Open last year, said he would have "a good chance of pocketing" his first victory "if I produce under-par scores" in the last two rounds.

"This is an excellent golf course," said Gleeson, who turned pro at 20 after helping Australia win the World Amateurs in 1996 at Southwoods. "I managed it well today by using only my 3-wood and 2-iron off the tee for accuracy."

Driving rains and scary lightning stopped play, forcing organizers to order the 15 remaining flights, including those of defending champion Gerald Rosales and contending Cassius Casas, to complete their rounds today.

"We told them to report at 6 a.m. tomorrow and then have them resume their rounds," said Vince Villafuerte, the tournament director. "Hopefully, we'll be through by 8. And then we'll have the survivors tee off beginning at 9."

Course unplayable

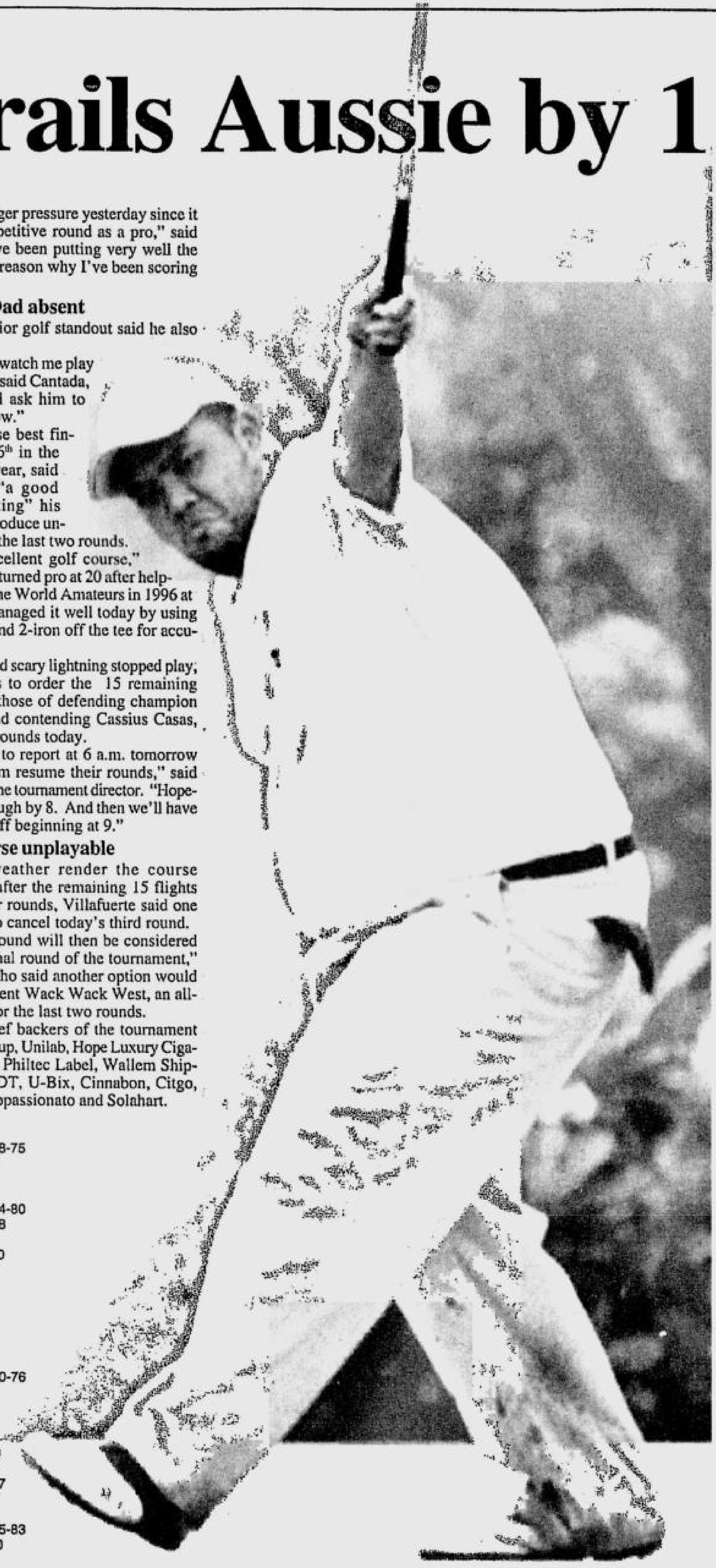
Should the weather render the course unplayable anew after the remaining 15 flights have finished their rounds, Villafuerte said one option would be to cancel today's third round.

"Tomorrow's round will then be considered as the third and final round of the tournament," said Villafuerte, who said another option would be to use the adjacent Wack Wack West, an all-weather course, for the last two rounds.

Among the chief backers of the tournament are The Herma Group, Unilab, Hope Luxury Cigarettes, Metrobank, Philtec Label, Wallem Shipping, Mizuno, PLDT, U-Bix, Cinnabon, Citgo, Unilever, Caffe Appassionato and Solahart.

Other scores:

147—Derek Fung (HK) 72-75
148—Seiichiro Kanemaru (Jpn) 73-75
148—Chi Bing Lam (Sin) 74-74
148—Robert Pactolerin (RP) 74-74
148—Ramil Bisera (RP) 71-77
149—Dan Cruz (RP) 79-70
149—Zaw Paing Oo (Mya) 76-73
149—Michael Etherington (Aus) 76-73
149—Hironori Yoshida (Jpn) 76-73
149—Mars Pucay (RP) 76-73
149—Rey Pagunsan (RP) 75-74
150—Lito Rempojo (RP) 75-75
150—Ollie Nordberg (Swe) 75-75
150—Benjie Magada (RP) 73-77
150—Aaron Meeks (US) 75-75
150—Lien Fu Lee (Taipei) 74-76
151—Dominique Boulet (HK) 77-74
151—Bobby Lincoln (SA) 76-75
151—Jess Toribio (RP) 76-75
151—Edwin Estrera (RP) 72-79
151—Antolin Fernando (RP) 75-76
151—Mario Manubay (RP) 74-77
152—Brad Kennedy (Aus) 76-76
152—Danny Chia (Mal) 76-76
152—Roger Retuerto (RP) 75-77
152—Rafael Ponce (Ecuador) 75-77
152—Chien Bing Lin (Taipei) 75-77
153—Richard Sinfuego (RP) 81-72
153—Kuo Chang Tseng (Taipei) 78-75
153—Robert Huxtable (US) 77-76
153—Davis Kim (Kor) 75-78
153—John Lee (Kor) 76-77
154—Daisuke Tsuchiyama (Jpn) 74-80
154—Ronald Pactolerin (RP) 76-78
154—Al Cruz Jr. (RP) 77-77
154—Wayne Wallen (Guam) 74-80
155—Mario Siodina (RP) 78-77
155— Morio Ohara (Jpn) 79-76
155—Joon Choi (Kor) 75-80
155—Ramon Brobio (RP) 78-77
155—Yeo Kuo Pan (Taipei) 77-78
155—Anthony Balan (RP) 77-78
155—Yurio Akitomi 74-81
156—Mitsutoshi Terasako (Jap) 80-76
156—Elmer Salvador (RP) 76-80
157—Glenn Joyner (Aus) 82-75
157—Chris Walky (US) 80-77
157—Roger Antonio (RP) 79-78
157—Chung Ming Lin (Taipei)78-79
157—Takashi Okuda (Jpn) 73-84
158—Vivencio Lascuna (RP) 81-77
158—Takashi Ogawa (Jpn) 81-77
158—Willy De Tomas (RP) 79-79
158—Kamikubo Yichiyoshi (Jpn) 75-83
158—David Heffernan (Aus) 78-80
158—Raul Minoza (RP) 78-81



CANTADA: Sentimental favorite.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Gerard puts new slant to local pro golf

BY JONG ARCANO

HE'S out to make teaching a profession, a scenario that disappoints not a few people who have watched him play since age 7.

Gerard Cantada, now 24, decided to leave the amateur ranks recently. But if the former jungolf hotshot lives up true to his word, he will never be the touring professional everybody has been expecting him to be.

Not even if he wins the Philippine Open?

"At the moment, full-time teaching is where I'm headed to. I'll probably cross the bridge when I get there," said Cantada, who vaulted into title contention in the open with his rounds of 70-71 that kept him just a stroke off the leading Australian David Gleeson.

Cantada is lending a new slant to the local golf scene as he is the only full-fledged member of an exclusive club like Wack Wack in the field of homegrown bets.

While the others pay their bills with script money, Cantada charges it to his membership. The Dasmariñas Village resident had to leave his personal cart at the club garage though since pros are not allowed to ride buggies while playing.

The ordinary golfer may not even afford the teaching rate of Cantada: he charges P2,000 per hour which is easily the highest among the top teachers at the moment.

Cantada, however, uses numerous swing gadgets including the new V1 Digital computer to help his students improve on their game. His principles are basically patterned after concepts he learned from the famous David Leadbetter Academy.

"I always try to give my students their money's worth," said Cantada. Cantada took the past two weeks off from teaching to concentrate on his preparation for the Open. And his students have all been asking for the earliest schedule as soon as he gets over his pro debut.

Just don't ask Gerard about tips on diet. That would be something the 250-plus pound "jumbo refrigerator" will willingly give out. For free, that is.

Kaye shows way at GHO

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Jonathan Kaye, close to withdrawing because of a pinched nerve in his neck, shot an 8-under-par 62 Thursday to take the first-round lead in the Greater Hartford Open.

Kaye, winless in five full seasons on the PGA Tour, had a 6-under 29 in perfect morning conditions on his first nine holes, the back nine on the TPC at River Highlands.

"I didn't think I would play today," Kaye said. "I pulled out of the pro-am. Last week in Westchester, every shot hurt. I was just trying to swing easy and go pain-free, which I did thanks to the help of the guys in the fitness trailer."

He was one stroke off the course record set last year by Kirk Triplett, and matched the low rounds of his tour career, 10-under 62s in the 1999 Bob Hope Classic and 2000 Las Vegas Classic.

Japan's Shigeki Maruyama opened with a 63, the best round of his PGA Tour career, a week after withdrawing from the Buick Classic because of a stiff neck. *AP*

IRISH MEET

Colin breaks slump, leads

CORK, Ireland—Colin Montgomerie broke out of a prolonged slump in spectacular style Thursday with an 8-under-par 63 to take the first round lead in the Irish Open.

The 38-year-old Scot said it was his best round since his first round 65 in the 1997 US Open at Congressional, near Washington, D.C. He lost that tournament by one stroke to Ernie Els.

Eagle threes at the 10th and 18th holes of the 6,927-yard new Fota Island course helped Montgomerie to a two-stroke lead over Irish veteran Eamonn Darcy and Swedish newcomer Fredrik Henge.

Montgomerie's 63 was the lowest opening round in the 75-year-old tournament. It was his best first round since the 2000 British Masters last August, when he fired a 64.

Darcy, a 48-year-old with more than 30 years of tour experience, set the target during the morning which Henge matched before Montgomerie passed them with his afternoon round.

Montgomerie, who has never won a major title, said he had played indifferently in Wednesday's pro-am but went to the practice range afterward.

"I found something there that really made a lot of sense to me, but don't ask me what," he said, adding later that it had to do with his set up.

"I have watched videos a lot of Congressional, where I had rounds of 65-67-69, good enough to win a US Open. I didn't because of a 2nd round 76.

"It's very difficult to throw in a 76 and win a tournament these days. I always look at that as the day I lost a major, but the 65 was the best round I have ever played, the best golf I can do," said Montgomerie.

"I've been trying to get back to that and I found it last night." *AP*

Golfers face formidable foe in pesky fly

ABSECON, New Jersey—Defending champion Janice Moodie and the other 144 players in this week's ShopRite LPGA Classic have a formidable foe with a lot of bite around the greens.

The greenhead fly, an insect with green eyes and lousy golf etiquette, has made life miserable on the Seaview Marriott Resort course all week.

And it could be a factor when play begins in the 54-hole event Friday (Saturday in Manila).

In Wednesday's practice round, one bit Laura Davies on the neck during her backswing. "The heat's not a problem. It's those flies that are the worst. You get swamped by them," she said.

The aggressive, bloodsucking pest breeds in salt marshes like those lining the par-71, 6,051-yard (5,506-meter) course. Big and slow, it can be swatted easier than a mosquito or a garden variety fly. But by then, it's already stung its victim.

Moodie, 28, who captured last year's tournament by shooting a final-round 2-under-par 69 for a three-day total of 203, could have a good shot at becoming the first Classic winner to repeat—if only because of her bug repellent.

She is using Autan, a deodorant-style repellent she bought while home in Scotland. She's not sure it's even legal in the United States, but she's using it anyway.

"It's working because I haven't been bitten by those greenhead things," she said. She said she shared some with one player who was getting bitten during practice rounds, but may save the rest for herself.

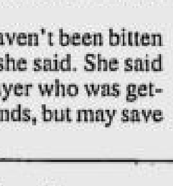
"I don't want to give it to anybody because I only have one tube," Moodie said.

That's not her only edge. The Scottish links-style Bay Course, designed by legendary golf architect Donald Ross in 1912, plays like the Scottish courses she learned on.

The 16th annual ShopRite LPGA Classic is the richest 54-hole event on the LPGA Tour, with a $1.2 million purse including a $180,000 winner's share. *AP*

Bullheaded sports officials

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

THE STRIFE-TORN Basketball Association of the Philippines has been suspended by the International Basketball Federation because two separate groups of officials have been elected to run its affairs.

Of course the Fiba suspension was expected a long time ago. Since last December many had seen the punishment coming mainly because the major players in the long-running controversy, Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat and Quintellano "Tiny" Literal, have been to bullheaded to listen to reasons. Simple as that.

For instance, Puyat has been president of the BAP for 27 years (from 1968 until 1995) and the Fiba as a two-time president, yet he still insists in seeking the post at present. What is there to ask for? He has already benefited from basketball and should be resting on his laurels by now.

Regarding the suspension, Fiba's long-time secretary general Borislav Stankovic has offered two options to the warring parties for them to reconcile and regain BAP membership in the international federation. However, should Puyat and Literal remain adamant and refuse to accept the Fiba terms, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit will seek the intervention of the International Olympic Committee to solve the crippling controversy.

"If they don't submit themselves to either option, then the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sports should step in," Dayrit was quoted as saying.

Methinks the BAP crisis, a trouble that clearly involves a member of the Olympic family, would not have reached this point had IOC representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde mediated at the first sign of trouble. But Mr. Elizalde did not move fast enough to plug the hole and prevent the ship from sinking.

Sports critique Julian Malonso, a former POC president, said Elizalde, as usual, has been remiss in his duty to protect the Olympic movement. "The long presence of Mr. Elizalde in the local scene is another reason why sports does not progress in the Philippines."

On Lito Puyat, Malonso said: "It is true he became the president of Fiba, but Philippine basketball subsequently suffered. He used basketball for his political mileage, winning as assemblyman and councilor. Now that he is out of politics, he goes back to basketball." The power struggle in the basketball association began last December when then BAP president Freddie Jalasco lost to Tiny Literal in a snap election conducted by the BAP national board. Literal since then was reelected by the board several times, the last on June 20. Yet the POC chose to recognize Jalasco and, much later, Puyat as the BAP president. This complicated the already muddled situation.

SPORTS TRIVIA. The recent crisis to hit the Philippine basketball scene will be the second since 1962. In 1962, the Philippines was supposed to host the fourth World Basketball Championship in Manila—but the Philippine government, headed by then President Diosdado Macapagal, refused to grant entry visas form to players and officials coming from socialist countries. As a result, Fiba withdrew the world championship from the Philippines, excluded the country from the next world championship and imposed a fine of $2,000 on the BAP headed by the late Sen. Ambrosio Padilla and Dionisio Calvo.

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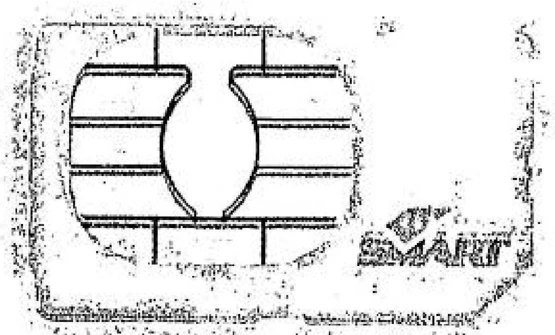
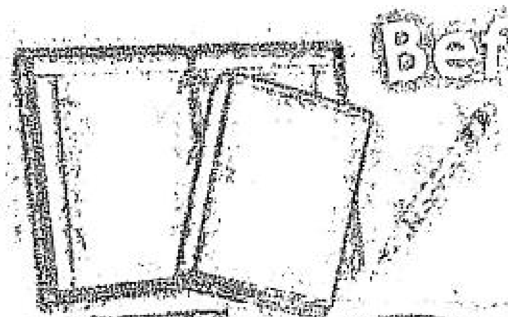
NATIONWIDE





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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Police hunting plotters A23

Malonzo insists on taking oath A22

NGOs to form MJ 'extradition watch'

BY JEROME ANING

NON-GOVERNMENT organizations are set to form Extradition Watch, a coalition that would put pressure on a Manila regional trial court and the Department of Justice to resolve the extradition case against Rep. Mark Jimenez.

But the new coalition faces rough sailing as the Office of the Ombudsman has announced that it will ask the US government to allow Jimenez to stay and provide evidence to the Sandiganbayan, once the court has submitted a ruling on the extradition case.

According to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Jimenez is needed here in the country to provide crucial evidence for the prosecution which could make or break the government plunder case against deposed President Estrada.

Desierto said the prosecution would encounter problems in the presentation of evidence if Jimenez were not around to testify.

The People's Organizations for the Preservation of Laws and Ethical Standards (Peoples) expressed fear that Jimenez might flee the country once the court rules against him. Jimenez, however, has repeatedly denied this accusation.

Peoples chair Vener Alpapara said Jimenez already profited from the delay in the extradition case when he ran and won in the last election to represent Manila's sixth district.

Alpapara and her group has been questioning last week's decision of Manila RTC judge Guillermo Purganan to defer action on the petition to dismiss filed by Jimenez's lawyers.

Peoples and the lawyers' group Equal Justice for All (E-Just) are set to launch "Extradition Watch," to monitor the case.

The coalition would be similar to "Plunder Watch," which is following developments in the case against Jimenez's friend, President Estrada.

Jimenez, Estrada's adviser on Latin American affairs, was indicted by a Florida court two years ago for charges of tax evasion, mail fraud, conspiracy, wire fraud, false statement and illegal contributions to the Democratic Party campaign.

Desierto said Jimenez's evidence will give weight to the testimony of Equitable-PCI Bank officials that Estrada and Jose Velarde, the owner of the multibillion-peso account in the bank, were one and the same person.

The amount was the alleged commission earned by the former president in a series of transactions involving bank mergers, among others.

"The testimony of Jimenez would reinforce that of Equitable bank officials Clarissa Ocampo and Manuel Curato, the two key witnesses in the Estrada plunder case," Desierto said.

Earlier, Jimenez, along with former Social Security System president Carlos Arellano, former Government Services Insurance System chair Federico Pascual and Belle Corporation vice chair William Go-Ocier,

NGOs/ A22

Destabilization, mayor says of Parañaque fire

BY ALCUIN PAPA

SUSPECTED arsonists started a one-hour fire at the Parañaque City Hall on Thursday night, destroying P15 million worth of property and important documents.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez said the fire "could be part of a destabilization plot against my administration."

According to initial reports by FO1 Cristobal Meynes of the Parañaque Fire Division, the fire started around 6 p.m. Thursday in the urban Poor Affairs Office on the second floor of the left wing of the building.

Strong winds fanned the fire that spread to the office of the city's Commission on Audit and the conference room where the city council held its sessions.

DESTABILIZATION/ A22

Students to protest DENR decision on Mehan construction

BY JEROME ANING

STUDENTS of the City College of Manila yesterday said they would launch a series of demonstrations to protest the decision of the Department of Environment and National Resources to temporarily stop the construction of their new campus on the Mehan Gardens.

Juliet Reyes, a CCM student group leader, told reporters that the DENR's decision violated their right to have a school on a site conducive for learning.

The other day, DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez stopped the construction of the new CCM campus and ordered a review of the project's environmental compliance certificate.

Alvarez said he has learned several trees in the garden have been cut down which the city government is not allowed to do.

In an interview over radio station dzRH, Mayor Lito Atienza said his office would follow the DENR's order. But he stressed that old and big trees in the area that will be affected by the construction of the two CCM buildings will be replanted elsewhere.

During a tour of the Mehan with Sen. Loren Legarda last week, reporters learned from project officials that nine coconut trees in the park have been cut.

There are nine Narra and three Mahogany trees in the area.

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Nude dancers rounded up in Quiapo

MANILA policemen raided a beerhouse in Quiapo before dawn yesterday and rounded up eight young women whom they said they caught dancing in the nude.

The girls, aged 16 to 18 years old, were found in the Joy Disco Club on Quezon Boulevard, according to Supt. Napoleon Taas, chief of the Western Police District's special operation group.

Taas said several Quiapo residents recently complained about lewd shows in Joy. A team of SOG members raided the beerhouse at around 4 a.m. and caught the girls dancing naked on stage. They were brought to the SOG detention cell and later charged with indecent acts. *Jerome Aning*

Malonzo insists on taking oath

By Christian V. Esguerra

EVEN IF the Commission on Elections had suspended the proclamation of winners in Caloocan City, incumbent Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo will take his oath of office today.

In a press statement, Malonzo said he has to assume office to prevent the breakdown of services and the outbreak of violence in the city.

The Comelec has suspended the proclamation of winners in Caloocan after mayoral candidate Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio filed a petition asking the poll body to declare a failure of election in the city.

Asistio accused Malonzo and other local officials of staging the unruly distribution of election materials on May 14 to delay the election and to disenfranchise many of the voters.

But Malacañang, through the Department of Interior and Local Government, has yet to appoint officers-in-charge of the city.

Malonzo also announced in the statement that other winning candidates, mostly from his People Power Coalition ticket, will also "take their oath" today.

"The people of Caloocan voted for us. The official Comelec tally showed that we won and so we will abide by the will of the people," Malonzo said.

But Allan Encarnacion, Asistio's spokesperson, said Malonzo would place himself in deeper trouble if he would proclaim himself mayor today.

The Asistio camp had also charged Malonzo with contempt after proclaiming himself winner of a third and final term even before the Comelec could finish the canvassing of votes.

"The Comelec should kick him out now," Encarnacion told the INQUIRER. "He's so eager to assume the post."

Even if his self-proclamation would proceed today, Malonzo would be facing angry city hall employees who would be staging a work stoppage starting 12 noon on Monday, said Manuel Cruz, 42, division officer of the Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management.

Cruz said that it is Malonzo's refusal to release the employees' salaries on time and not the political crisis in the city that forced them to stage a protest action.

He said the employees would not work until the issue has been resolved.

The employees also claimed that Malonzo would release the salaries more than a week late. Cruz said that the employees received their salaries for June 15 only last June 23.

But in a separate interview, Malonzo denied that salaries of city hall employees had been delayed and challenged his accusers to come up with documented proof that their wages do not come on time. He dismissed the charges as old issues that his political opponents would dredge up to discredit him.

Malonzo also warned his political rivals that he would be filing criminal and administrative charges, including libel suits, against them.

He said that he had already sued Encarnacion for libel in the past and stressed that he would sue him again should he persist in discrediting him without hard evidence.

Among the employees' grievances is a cut in benefits or total cancellation of benefits, Cruz said.

He alleged that Malonzo cancelled employees' rice subsidy and decreased their personnel relief allowance from P1,000 to P500.

CAMPUS PATROL
Members of the Western Police District patrol the University of Sto. Tomas campus along España in Sampaloc, Manila as part of the WPD's efforts to increase police visibility.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Ex-PAOCTF agent probably lying

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

GEN. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, was right in disbanding an elite Navy unit identified with Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson.

The breakup of the Special Reaction Unit of the Navy's Special Warfare Group (SWAG), local counterpart of the US Navy Seals, was aimed at preventing "a worst-case scenario."

The SRU worked under Lacson who headed the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) during the time of President Erap. Lacson, then chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), was so powerful he recruited men from the AFP, a separate organization, even without asking the permission of the AFP chief of staff.

* * *

Just like the PAOCTF, the men that Lacson recruited from the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were either handpicked by him or highly recommended by officers close to him.

SRU is a special unit within the military's elite branch, the SWAG. In short, members of the SRU, trained in demolition and commando operations, are the AFP's cream of the crop.

If they operated as a unit, SRU members would wreak havoc on whoever would be their target. In other words, if they became rebels against the government it would be hard put containing them.

* * *

Since they once worked under Lacson, the loyalty of SRU members to the Macapagal administration is suspect. Its members' dispersal to other military units is meant to neutralize their capability as a group.

Why is SRU's loyalty suspect? Because it has a history of being loyal to officers with whom they always come in contact.

During the time of President Cory, SWAG members who were guarding then coup rebel leader Gregorio Honasan helped him escape from detention aboard a Navy ship. Honasan was able to convince them to join the military rebels.

It is said that SRU members are harking back to the days when they were with PAOCTF. As PAOCTF agents they received extra pay. Intelligence reports, albeit unconfirmed, say SRU members were approached by some quarters to take part in the destabilization plot with a promise that they would be reinstated to their crime-fighting job should there be a change in administration.

* * *

The military says it has asked Moro rebels who recently signed a truce with the government to get out of Basilan to avoid getting in the way of an expected big battle between government troops and Abu Sayyaf bandits holding 23 hostages.

Why would the government worry that Moro rebels might get caught in the crossfire during the expected encounter? The government should concern itself with the safety of innocent civilians and not rebels belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) now on a flag with truce with the government.

By the way, why are MILF rebels in Basilan when they know there's an operation against the Abu Sayyaf in the island-province? The MILF is operating in Central Mindanao.

The answer to that question is simple: the MILF rebels in Basilan are aiding the Abu Sayyaf.

So, the government should have no qualms exterminating these MILF rebels along with the bandits.

* * *

The military is probably making the issue that it's having a hard time going after the Abu Sayyaf because troops didn't want to hit innocent civilians and MILF rebels.

That was the same excuse the military gave to the incredulous public when Abu Sayyaf bandits, surrounded from all sides, were able to escape in Lamitan. It said it didn't want innocent civilians and hostages getting caught in the crossfire.

B*lls**t! The Abu Sayyaf escaped because it was able to outmaneuver the military in Lamitan.

My sources in the military said snipers strategically placed were able to hold at bay a battalion of Army soldiers. Bogged down by sniper fire, the ground commander dispatched an armored carrier with the troops walking behind it. The Moro bandits stopped the armored carrier in its tracks with an anti-tank weapon, the sources said. The troops following the carrier scampered to safety.

The Abus, most of whom fought in Afghanistan years ago, are veteran fighters and therefore more experienced in combat than government troops.

* * *

That former PAOCTF agent who claims to have taken part in the kidnapping of casino employee Edgar Bentain was probably lying when he told the National Bureau of Investigation what he "knew."

The PAOCTF agent, whose face was covered with a handkerchief and was wearing a cap to hide his identity when his picture was taken at the NBI headquarters, said the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force also engaged in kidnap for ransom.

PAOCTF probably did what that former agent said it did but he is not the right person to say so because he is probably lying through his teeth.

The agent signed an affidavit detailing his alleged participation. But NBI sources told me he refused to undergo a lie detector test. Why would he not want to be polygraphed if he were telling the truth?

Polygraph tests, although not acceptable in court as evidence, are 99 percent accurate.

* * *

President GMA said she would want street thugs to become world-boxing champions like Manny Pacquiao, the new world super bantamweight champion.

GMA's dream would become a reality if she would have the country's sports officials work hard for our boxers and not for themselves.

The country's sports officials are there for the perks and privileges that go with their positions. They're not really interested in sports.

Ask sports czar Butch Tuazon.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 30, 2001
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Gen 18:1-15*
Gospel: *Mt 8:5-17*

When Jesus entered Capernaum, an Army captain approached him to ask his help, "Sir, my servant lies sick at home. He is paralyzed and suffers terribly." Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

The captain answered, "I am not worthy to have you under my roof. Just give an order and my boy will be healed. For I myself, a junior officer, give orders to my soldiers. And if I say to one: 'Go,' he goes, and if I say to another: 'Come,' he comes, and to my servant: 'Do this,' he does it."

When Jesus heard this he was astonished and said to those who were following him, "I tell you, I have not found such faith in Israel. I say to you, many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the kingdom of heaven; but the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown out into the darkness; there they will wail and grind their teeth."

Then Jesus said to the captain, "Go home now. As you believed, so let it be." And at that moment his servant was healed.

Jesus went to Peter's house and found Peter's mother-in-law in bed with fever. He took her by the hand and the fever left her; she got up and began to wait on him.

Toward evening they brought to Jesus many possessed by evil spirits, and with a word he drove out the spirits. He also healed all who were sick. In doing this he fulfilled what was said by the prophet Isaiah: *He bore our infirmities and took on himself our diseases.*

Commentary:

Matthew presents Jesus as the Servant of Yahweh who had as a mission to heal people and to restore them to fullness of life as a holy people of God. The full extent of Jesus' healing action becomes clear in the last verse of this reading, where Matthew indicates that Jesus fulfilled a prophecy. Matthew wants to make it clear that Jesus' action was part of the salvific plan of God, prepared over a long period of history. This prophecy could only be fulfilled in Jesus because of his total obedience to God. Jesus was not a simple healer like so many others but a person who, as the prophet says, 'took our infirmities and bore our diseases'.

Father in heaven, you want to bring healing and unity to humankind. Teach us obedience so that we may cooperate with your plan of salvation.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY)—Rape—In the crime of rape, complete or full penetration of the complainant's private part is not necessary. Neither is the rupture of the hymen essential. What is fundamental is that the entrance or at least the introduction of the male organ into the labia of the pudendum is proved. The mere introduction of the male organ into the labia mejora of the victim's genitalia and not the full penetration of the complainant's private part consummates the crime. More importantly, it has been rules in People v. San Juan, that in crimes against chastity, the medical examination of the victim is not an indispensable element for the successful prosecution of the crime, as her testimony alone, if credible, is sufficient to convict the accused thereof. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Ynares-Santiago, People v. Sandoval, G.R. Nos. 132625-31, December 18, 2000].

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Boycott staged over tuition raise

By Jerome Aning

HUNDREDS of students from Manila's university belt boycotted their classes Thursday morning and held simultaneous pickets against "profit-hungry capitalist educators" and tuition fee increases.

The pickets at the University of the Philippines-Manila, University of Manila, Arellano University, University of Sto. Tomas, University of the East, Far Eastern University, San Sebastian College, Technological Institute of the Philippines, Centro Escolar University and Manuel L. Quezon University were led by the left-leaning military youth groups Anakbayan and the League of Filipino Students.

"The profit-hungry capitalist educators with the collaboration of the Commission on Higher Education and the present administration abandoned every little hope of the youth for education," Anakbayan said in a statement.

Most of the student groups who joined the pickets claimed there were deadlocks in the consultations on the tuition increase in the previous school year but school authorities still implemented a 10- to 35-percent tuition raise for the new school year.

Anakbayan chair Raymond Maglanoc said tuition increases have been implemented in 376 private schools and 10 state universities nationwide.

"It is very clear that amid the socioeconomic crisis, the market forces determinant of education has always been determined in terms of profit," he said.

The tuition increases will increase the current 1.8 million out of school youths, the group said. Only 21 million students are enrolled out of the 44 million school-age youths nationwide, it added.

Arellano students are complaining about a 10-percent increase, which the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Arellanista said was unjust because school authorities have not heeded calls for the upgrading of school facilities.

In UE, LFS-UE chair Raymond Vizconde said the school administration has imposed an average increase of 36 percent, or P645 in miscellaneous fees.

"The last time the administration upgraded our books in the library was in 1998," Vizconde said. "Our computer rooms lack computers and we are charged as high as P650 in Internet fee but we can only use the computer for 12 hours for the whole semester."

Alliance of Concerned Escolarians spokesperson Jonathan Fajardo said "education must be service-oriented and should not be peddled like a commodity."

Maglanoc reported that student leaders from many groups opposed to the tuition increases are suffering from direct and indirect harassment by administration officials.

He cited the student council chair of TIP, who he said was denied scholarship and refused admission due to the council chair's opposition to the tuition increase. Other student leaders receive forms tracing their involvement in rallies against tuition increase, he said.

UP-Manila student council vice chair Rochelle Linga said state university students are already beginning to suffer from the budget cuts imposed by the government.

She complained that the allotted budget for the war against the Abu Sayyaf "is more than enough to provide all state university students quality education at an affordable rate."

Destabilization . . .

(From page A21)

The office of Mayor Marquez was spared.

Inmates of the Parañaque City Jail had to be evacuated to the Parañaque Sports Complex.

Reports said important documents and office equipment went up in smoke.

The fire was put out at 7:45 p.m. No one was reported injured.

Residents around the city hall told investigators that the fire could have been started on purpose since they heard no explosions prior to the blaze.

"That. . . could be part of a destabilization plot against my administration," Marquez said in a press statement.

He claimed that intelligence reports reaching his office said a certain group was "out to destabilize the city government by paralyzing operations at City Hall."

The three-term mayor said he was seriously considering placing the Parañaque police on red alert in the wake of the fire.

He said his office received reports that a group of disgruntled poll losers and their supporters "had hatched a plot to destabilize our city government by, among other steps, mounting sustained street protests."

"We are not taking these reports sitting down," he said. "I have already issued instructions to our police to arrest individual members of the group who have a hand in this dastardly plot."

He said that according to the plan, the plotters would "block all gates and entrance to City Hall during their protest action with the intent of stopping our government employees from discharging their functions and rendering basic services to our people."

Quezon City widow robbed

ROBBERS struck at the house of a 68-year-old widow in Quezon City and took nearly P2 million in jewelry and cash.

Gloria Ayroso-Espinosa, of No. 4 Road 6, Project 6, was not home when the burglars broke into her house Thursday, said investigator PO3 Leo Tabuena, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The robbers took P1.9 million worth of jewelry and P50,000 in cash, Tabuena said.

He said the widow and her housemates were not home when the robbers forced their way into her house between 9:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday.

The burglars destroyed the steel grills of the main door and ransacked the house, Tabuena said.

He said the break-in was discovered after Espinosa and her housemates came home Thursday afternoon. *P. Tubeza*

NGOs to form MJ 'extradition' watch

(From page A21)

testified that Estrada received P189 million in commission when the government bought Belle Corp. shares worth P7.8 billion.

Jimenez also filed a separate plunder case against Estrada where the congressman-elect claimed he was forced to hand over a total of P346 million to the ousted president.

Jimenez said he was also forced to issue huge sums of money to Estrada from Dec. 25, 1998 to Aug. 7, 2000.

In an affidavit he submitted earlier this year, Jimenez claimed Estrada borrowed huge amounts of money from him, which the deposed president never paid back.

1 slain, 3 hurt in land dispute

By Alcuin Papa

A SHOOTING war triggered by a land dispute in Parañaque on Thursday night led to the death of one man and to serious injuries for three others.

Parañaque police identified the slain man as Miguel Libria, 42, of Canaynay Road, Evacom, San Dionisio, Parañaque.

Libria died from a gunshot wound in the left jaw.

The injured were identified as Joselito Sargue, 29, a security guard of the Third Alert Security Agency and a resident of Daang hari, UPS 4, Marcelo Green, Parañaque; Gavino Romano, 22, also a security guard of Lot 23, Block 9, Dollar St., Veravilla, Pamplona, Las Piñas; and Romeo Baladia.

The three injured were taken to the Olivares General Hospital, also in Parañaque, for treatment.

Police arrested five suspects in the shooting. They were identified as Arnold Cardoza, 56; Artemio Ogarde, 49; Ismael Bariga, 39; Cesar Libria, 22; and Wilberto Boyles, 29.

According to sketchy reports, two groups led by Quirico Lim and squatters in the area led by a certain Rodriguez clashed over a big plot of land in the area around 8:15 p.m. Thursday.

Lim's men were in the process of building a fence around part of the lot when they were confronted by Rodriguez's group.

The two groups were caught in a heated argument until the shooting started.

Gold bar gang tricks Japanese

By Alcuin Papa

A GANG of swindlers selling fake gold bars tricked a Japanese tourist in Pasay City Wednesday night but the victim managed to bring the suspected mastermind to jail.

Businessman Takehiro Shichida, 60, a native of Kanagawa, Japan, appeared before the Pasay City Police Criminal Investigation Division yesterday to report the swindle.

Shichida, who checked into the Copacabana Hotel along Edsa in Pasay City, told police he lost P60,000 in cash to the gang.

He said that on Wednesday, a woman who introduced herself as Purificacion Lopez knocked on his hotel room and was able to convince Shichida to buy three gold bars for P15 million each.

That afternoon, Lopez came back with four unidentified companions, two men and two women.

This time, Lopez asked the Japanese to make an initial downpayment of P60,000 for the supposed gold bars. After the Japanese gave the cash, he, a companion, Lopez and her own companions drove to the Camachile area in Quezon City on board a Mitsubishi L-300 van.

Lopez told Shichida they would pick up the "gold bars."

In Camachile, Lopez alighted from the van and reappeared with a package. She told Shichida the gold bars were in the package.

While Lopez's companions drove away in another vehicle, Shichida unwrapped the package and found what turned out to be gold-plated lead bars. He and his unidentified companion grabbed Lopez and brought her to the police station.

Under questioning, Lopez denied any involvement in the scam. Still, police said Lopez would be charged with swindle.

Lawyer loses P2 million to robbers

By Philip C. Tubeza

LAWYER Hilario P. Valdez, 36, wanted to give his daughter a precious piece of jewelry on her birthday last Tuesday.

But when Valdez opened his secret vault in his bedroom, it was empty of about P2 million worth of jewelry, including his birthday present to his daughter.

Valdez's house at 12 Paraguay Street in Loyola Grand Villa, Barangay Pansol, Quezon City, could have been robbed by members of the *Akyat Bahay* gang when he and his family were on a vacation in the United States last May, said investigator PO2 Rommel Merino, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Valdez, a native of Ilocos Norte, is said to be a nephew of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Police said expensive Rolex watches and other valuable timepieces were also missing from Valdez's safe.

Merino said the burglary might have happened between 8 a.m. of May 10 and 8 a.m. of the following day.

He said the robbers somehow gained entry into the Valdez's home and forcibly opened the master bedroom, Merino said.

Police hunting plotters

SECURITY forces yesterday were investigating a threat of terrorist bombings in Manila to take the pressure off guerrillas under siege from pursuing troops in the south.

The investigation started even as militant groups called on the Macapagal government to stop flooding the public with what they called unfounded bomb threats.

Intelligence agencies were following leads "and we hope they get some results within three days or a week," police spokesman Director-General Thompson Lantion said.

The plot was uncovered with the arrest of confessed Abu Sayyaf intelligence officer Harsim Abdulajid.

Police said Abdulajid had a hand in planning a series of bombings to divert attention from rebel leaders holding 23 American and Filipino hostages on Basilan island, where they are being pursued by a large military task force.

Earlier this week, the government put the capital on alert for a possible destabilization plot timed to coincide with the arraignment of deposed President Joseph Estrada on corruption charges.

However, after the arraignment passed without incident on Wednesday, officials later said the so-called plot had been exaggerated, raising accusations from the opposition that there had been no such plot in the first place.

There have been repeated clashes on the southern island in the past week with the death toll rising to at least 39 as the Armed Forces said troops were nearing the rebel camp.

Three soldiers and an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed in two battles late Thursday. The rebel casualties were taken away by retreating Abu Sayyaf members, the military said.

The deaths raise the reported death toll to 19 government soldiers and at least 20 Abu Sayyaf rebels, with more than 75 wounded on both sides in a month of fighting since the guerrillas embarked on a kidnapping spree.

Two of the most recent military fatalities were former Muslim rebels who joined the government forces as part of a 1996 peace accord between Manila and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

A spokesman for the Armed Forces Southern Command accused remnants of the MILF and MNLF of supporting the Abu Sayyaf, and said the military could not be held responsible if the peace accords were breached.

"As far as we are concerned, we are pursuing the Abu Sayyaf and anybody who is armed along the way, within the area where the operation is being conducted, will be engaged by our forces," Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said: "We cannot distinguish the Abu Sayyaf from the MILF and the MNLF in the heat of combat."

The government has sent 5,000 troops to Basilan to rescue the hostages and destroy the Abu Sayyaf, who began their kidnapping spree on May 27.

Fighting has been stepped up in the past six days since the military said it had engaged the guerrillas' hit-and-run perimeter guards on a jungle-clad mountain in the center of the island.

The guerrillas are believed to have split into two groups with their captives and it is not known if any hostages have been harmed in the shootings.

But local radio reports, quoting an unnamed Abu Sayyaf emissary, said some of the hostages, including Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham, were suffering from malaria.

Armed forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said about 100 soldiers were also suffering from malaria.

Adan said troops were closing in on the main band of guerrillas, who are holding the Burnhams and eight Filipinos. The whereabouts of the second group, holding 13 plantation workers, was not known, he said.

At least four Filipino hostages have been killed, and 11 have either escaped or been released, reportedly after huge ransoms were paid.

The Abu Sayyaf say they beheaded an American, Guillermo Sobero, after their demand to have two Malaysians brought in as negotiators was rejected.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak, who was in Manila for talks yesterday, ruled out that his government is getting involved in attempts to free the hostages, and said Kuala Lumpur would not encourage private mediators.

Militant groups made their call even as they urged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to castigate police officials for publicly disclosing unverified intelligence reports.

Activists from the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and the fishermen's group Pamalakaya denounced police officials for "scaring" the public by feeding them alleged bombing plots to be launched by the Abu Sayyaf in Metro Manila.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano questioned the motive behind what he described as the "kiss and tell" attitude of police officers in revealing so-called confidential reports on the alleged bombing plot.

"We are highly suspicious of the alleged bomb threats supposed to be undertaken by the bandit group," Mariano said. "It is just like an old motion picture repeatedly being shown in second-run theaters in the metropolis."

He said the disclosure was apparently part of a vain attempt to diffuse raging public opinion against the administration.

Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon pressed for an investigation of the reported bombing plot as well as of the foiled attempt of military officers to grab power on June 26 and 27. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, AFP*

EDWIN BACASMAS, DENNIS SABANGAN

STREET LIFE

While a group of squatters spend hours playing the popular card game called *tong-its* under the Kamuning flyover in Quezon City, 12-year-old Marlon Bobis sells cigarettes and hot noodles with other children on the Makati portion of the South Luzon Expressway. Bobis, who earns about P75 a day, takes a break by smoking on the hot pavement.

Fake personal care products confiscated

By Jerome Aning

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents yesterday seized about P800,000 worth of fake shampoo, bath soap and other personal care products during a raid in Quiapo, Manila yesterday.

Raided were three storerooms on the third floor and three stalls on the second floor of the Carriedo Center in Quiapo. The NBI agents launched the operation with a June 28 search warrant from Manila Judge Antonio Eugenio.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said that on June 27, Procter and Gamble and Unilever Philippines Inc., through their law firm R.V. Domingo & Associates, requested that several shopping malls be investigated and prosecuted for selling and importing counterfeit products bearing their trade marks.

The law firm said P & G and Unilever have received numerous complaints from consumers about the proliferation of fake Lux soap, Vaseline lotion, Sunsilk shampoo and Crème Silk hair conditioner. Some complainants claimed the products caused allergic reaction in them.

The case was assigned to the NBI's intellectual property rights and anti-illegal recruitment divisions.

Loudmouth gives away self to cops

By Philip C. Tubeza

BECAUSE of his loud mouth, robbery suspect Darius B. de Juan did not escape policemen hunting him down in Quezon City.

De Juan, 23, of San Roque II, Barangay Pag-Asa, Quezon City, was arrested for his involvement with four others in a jeepney robbery in Quezon City early Tuesday morning where a policeman and a woman were killed, said Supt. Raul Medina, Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU) chief.

Policemen caught up with De Juan after he allegedly bragged about his role in the robbery where PO3 Henry Ubalde and Lavenia Bolanon were killed and four other passengers were injured.

De Juan was arrested Thursday evening after a police informant called up the CIU, saying that the suspect was in his neighborhood in the slum of San Roque II.

De Juan was allegedly narrating to his neighbors his latest caper, police said.

CIU agents immediately went to San Roque and caught the suspect after a brief chase.

He was brought to the CPD-CIU office in Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, where one of the victims positively identified him as one of the robbers.

Medina said De Juan would be charged with two counts of robbery with homicide and frustrated homicide.

Police earlier captured one of the other suspects, a 16-year-old boy from San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, right after the robbery.

Police identified the remaining suspects only as Baba, Danilo, and Kalbo. Baba allegedly was the one who shot Ubalde.

Medina said police are looking for the remaining culprits in Quezon City, Bulacan, Dasmarinas, Cavite, and Laguna.

The passengers were on board a jeep driven by Ramon Baron toward Cubao when the five suspects announced the holdup at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, when the jeep was at the corner of East Avenue and Matapang Street.

The suspects were armed with a handgun, ice picks and fan knives.

Ubalde, one of the passengers, was shot when he refused to surrender his wallet.

Cops nab old drug peddler

A 73-YEAR-OLD woman's alleged drug peddling in Malate, Manila so concerned her neighbors that they tipped the police about her activities.

A team from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's Manila field office led by Senior Insp. Lito Coronel arrested Felicima Mataga during a sting operation at her residence at 620 San Andres St. in Malate, Manila late Wednesday night.

Also arrested was Roderick Santos, 30, of Leveriza Street, Malate, who was buying shabu from the suspect at the time of the buy-bust.

CIDG member SPO1 Renato Ruiz posed as a buyer and around 10:30 p.m. was able to buy a sachet of shabu for P500. The policeman collared Mataga as soon as she received the payment.

Other lawmen who were waiting outside burst into the house and arrested Santos as he tried to escape.

The policemen said they were able to seize four more sachets of shabu from him.

Coronel said Mataga's own neighbors went to the CIDG to report her drug peddling. After several days of surveillance, a police team was formed for a buy-bust.

Mataga was charged with violating the Dangerous Drugs Act and was transferred to the city jail.

Jerome Aning

2 jeepney thieves fall

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE on Thursday arrested one of two suspected robbers who had long been preying on jeepney passengers in Caloocan City.

Authorities identified one of the suspects as Jackson de la Cruz, 22, of Barrio San Jose, Caloocan.

De la Cruz's cohort, identified only as Jun Negro, managed to elude arrest.

The two men took at least P19,000 in cash, jewelry, and personal items from the passengers of a jeepney about 4 p.m. Thursday in front of Midway Park Videoke on Quirino Highway Extension, said PO3 Elvis Imperial.

The jeepney was on its way to SM Fairview in Quezon City, police said.

The suspects took at knifepoint the passengers' cellular phones, jewelry, cash and other belongings, police said.

Police identified three of the victims as Marino de la Cruz, 37, Rheje Carmona, 21, and Agustin Santillan, 24, of Caloocan.

The suspects fled toward Amparo Subdivision after the bold afternoon heist.

Members of the Police Community Precinct 2 arrested De la Cruz during a follow-up operation. He was charged with robbery before the city prosecutor's office.

Christian V. Esguerra

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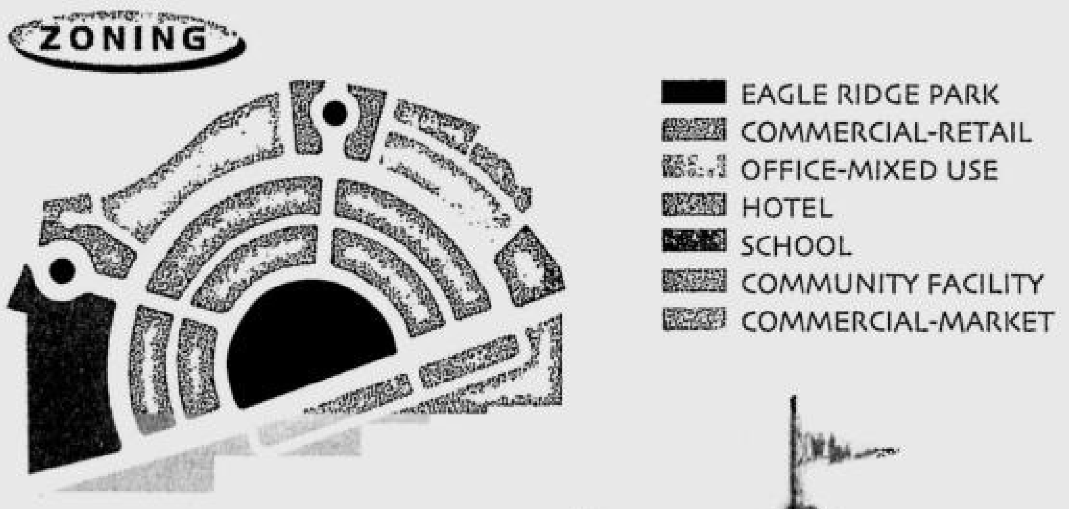
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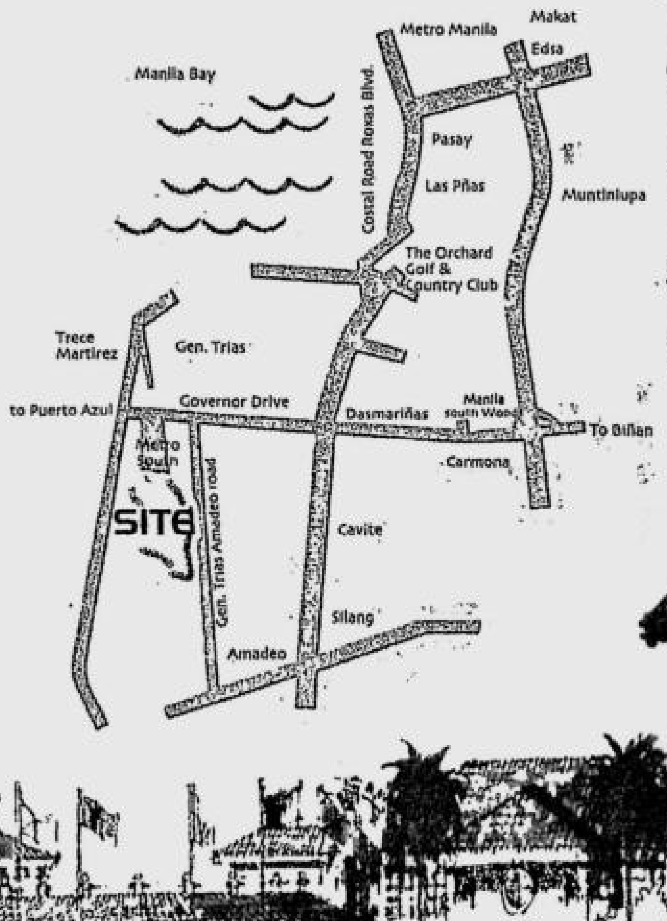
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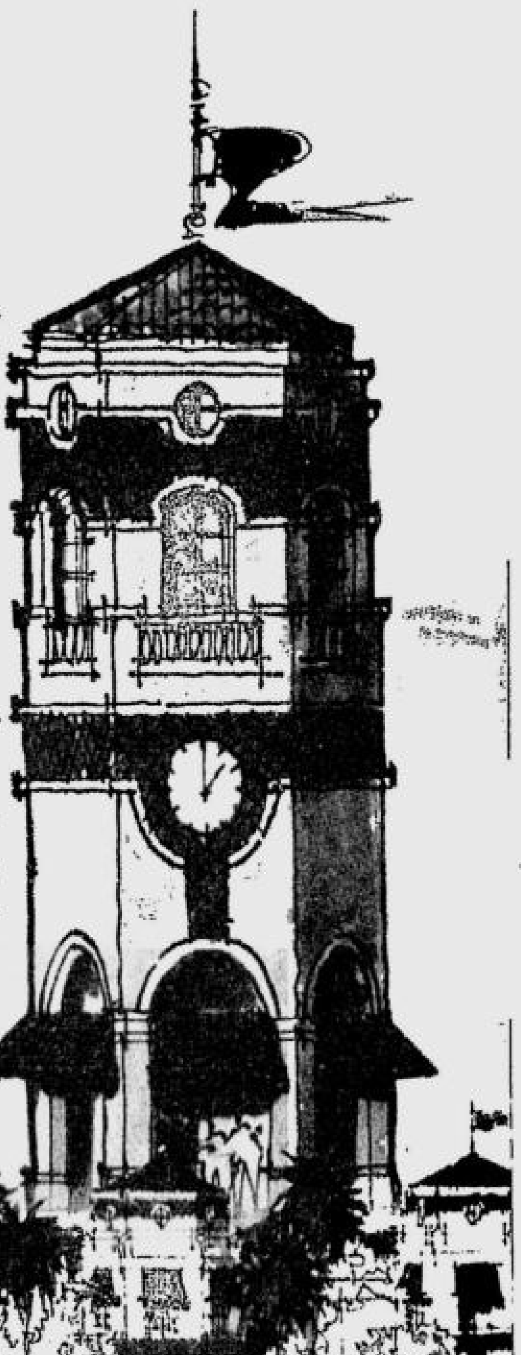

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Rains bring bad cops and drivers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MONSOON did not only bring intermittent rains and floods in the metropolis; it also spawned a wave of petty crimes, from extorting cops to abusive drivers to opportunistic bystanders, especially in Caloocan City.

Jeepney driver Jaime Montemayor, 35, on Friday complained of traffic enforcers and policemen who have been preying on him and other drivers in Monumento, Caloocan City since the rains started.

Police, he said, had found more "excuses" to extort money from jeepney drivers, especially when they are caught in traffic jams.

"We have no choice but to give them money. Otherwise, they would increase our so-called violations," Montemayor said in Filipino.

Another jeepney driver, Romeo Santos, 28, complained that traffic enforcers usually relaxed rules to those who regularly paid "traffic fees."

Drivers of jeepneys and Tamaraw FX vans, he said, were allowed to park their vehicles and take passengers even in illegal areas in front of Gotesco Grand Central on Rizal Avenue. He appealed to authorities to look at the situation.

"They should come here at Grand Central and find out how traffic enforcers are committing rampant abuses," he said in Filipino.

A sampaguita lei is hanged on the rearview mirror of vehicles whose drivers had already paid their "dues" to the traffic enforcers, Santos said. This is how they tell which among the drivers have already coughed up the money, he said.

Santos also claimed that sampaguita vendors are part of the racket.

Buses are allowed to park in near the Light Rail Transit terminal, Santos said. The buses and hundreds of jaywalkers contribute to the heavy traffic in the stretch of Rizal Avenue from the Monumento Circle to 11th Avenue.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo of the Caloocan Police said members of the Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management should be blamed since the group is designated to organize traffic in the area.

The DPSTM is under the office of Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo.

Malonzo agreed that the traffic situation in the area is difficult to control because of the LRT. He said that hundreds of thousands of commuters board and alight from the LRT every day, but there is no provision for the pedestrian traffic like an underpass so that commuters have to walk on the streets.

"We plan to construct an underpass in the area in front of Grand Central and an overpass in Monumento," Malonzo said. "In fact, we will be meeting with Metro Manila Authority and Development Chair Benjamin Abalos to discuss solutions to the problem. Hopefully, we could get funding for the construction of the underpass and the overpass."

'Demolitions are back'

DEMOLITIONS of squatter shanties are back even as President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to court the poor into supporting her fledgling government.

Yesterday, about 500 poor families asked Ms Macapagal to look into their plight after the local government demolished their houses in a dumpsite in Barangay Catmon in Malabon.

"The President tricked us!" said Joseph Operario, 35, one of hundreds of squatters in whose shanties were demolished yesterday.

"Gloria said there would be no demolitions. But how come our houses were destroyed?" said Lito Luciano, 35.

Luciano said he and his neighbors were predominantly supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

But because of Ms Macapagal's promise to give priority to the poor, Luciano said the residents decided to give her their support especially after pro-Estrada forces attempted to unseat her on May 1.

"We were better off during Erap's term. They were giving the poor land," said Roy Sese, 39.

Accompanied by heavily armed policemen, a demolition team formed by the Malabon government demolished yesterday several shanties at the Catmon dumpsite.

The residents said that as early as 8 a.m. yesterday, the team began destroying makeshift structures on a 287,100-square-meter lot reportedly owned by Roqueta Dimzon.

The demolition group and policemen left only after members of the media arrived at the scene about 3 p.m.

Residents said yesterday's demolition was the third one since last month. They said it was carried out "even without a court order and a demolition notice."

The residents said they were told the rest of the houses would be demolished today.

"We are not professional squatters so they (local government) don't have to drive us away," said Sese.

Frank Galvez, Malabon building inspector, said his office had all pertinent documents to carry out the demolition.

He said the residents should have left long ago since they occupied an area intended for beneficiaries of the city's community mortgage program.

Galvez immediately left after angry residents nearly killed him.

Squatters claimed they have been paying Dimzon P300 a month so they could own the property after eight years.

They said the property had been sold for P1,000 per square meter.

Even if they could not show certificates of land titles, the residents claimed their monthly payment receipts were proof that they practically own the property.

With the demolition of their shanties, residents appealed to Mayor Amado Vicencio to provide them with a relocation site.

One of the residents lamented that they seemed not to have a mayor.

"We no longer have anywhere to sleep. We hope that the mayor would think of helping us," Luciano said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Abalos vows to rid his city of slums

By Agnes E. Donato

REELECTIONIST Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday vowed to rid the city of squatters within the next three years.

Abalos, during his oath taking ceremonies at the city hall grounds, said his plan to clear the city of squatters was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's housing program for the poor.

The mayor, son of Metro Manila Development Authority chair and former Mandaluyong mayor Benjamin Abalos Sr., said he would start with a housing project for almost 17,000 squatter families in the city.

He said these squatters would have their own homes at a land recently donated by the Fabella family to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"We are grateful to be given this fresh mandate to serve Mandaluyong for another three years," Abalos said of his victory in the May 14 elections.

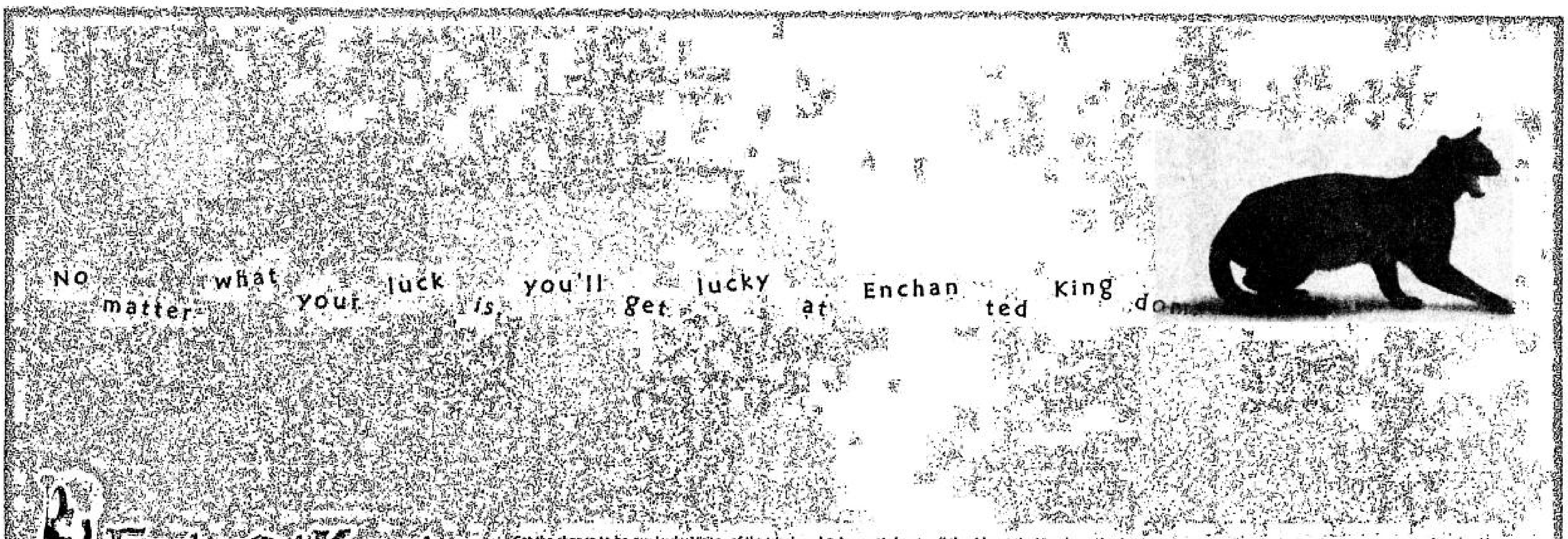
About 15,000 squatter families are occupying a large portion of the Fabella Compound in Barangay Addition Hills.

Abalos also promised additional incentives for meager salary earners at the city hall, including street sweepers, garbage collectors and janitors.

He also called on his political rivals to unite and support his administration in helping the poor.

"It's time to forgive and forget," he said. "The elections have ended."

Abalos won over rival Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo, who earlier filed an election protest over alleged massive election fraud.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CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	APOY SA KARAGATAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-14	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-15	MILA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-3	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-4	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-6	TOMB RAIDER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-4	BLONDIE - 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
CINEMA-4	HIYAS

Shabu mama busted

By Jerome Aning

A WOMAN bound for Cebu was arrested and ordered detained without bail after she was caught in possession of more than 600 grams of shabu just as she was about to board a ship at the Manila North Harbor on Wednesday morning.

Supt. Bernardo Diaz, Western Police District Station 2 commander, identified the woman as Ana Datu-Mama, a native of Lanao del Norte and a resident of Colon, Cebu.

Police said an informant tipped them about a "Maranao woman" who would attempt to smuggle shabu to Cebu and Mindanao.

Diaz dispatched a team to the North Harbor in Tondo and, with the help of port authorities, arrested Datu-Mama as she was about to board a Negros Navigation ship at Pier 2 about 11:30 a.m.

The woman is faces a death sentence if a court finds her guilty.

Car thieves hit 2 men in uniform

A VETERAN Camp Crame policeman saw his jeep being driven away by an unidentified man on Wednesday afternoon in Quezon City.

Kamuning police said SPO4 Benito M. Torres, 50, of Camp Crame, described the man who drove off in the jeep to be in his 40s, and with slit eyes.

The jeep had just been assembled and did not have a plate number, police said.

Torres told police that he parked his jeep near the corner of K-D and K-Ist streets in Kamuning, Quezon City about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

He said he did not notice at first that a man was loitering near his jeep. The man then suddenly climbed into the driver's seat, turned on the engine and drove toward Edsa, Torres said.

He said he had tried to run after his vehicle but could not catch up with it.

On Thursday, a Philippine Air Force lieutenant lost his Toyota Tamaraw FX to car thieves in Quezon City but recovered the vehicle in Las Piñas on the same day.

Lt. Arvin N. Buan, 25, assigned with the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City told police that he parked his Tamaraw FX (with plate number WCB 579) at the corner of K-9 and Salgado streets in Barangay West Kamias, Quezon City about 11 p.m. on Wednesday. But when he checked on it about 9 a.m. the following day, Buan said the vehicle was already gone.

He told the police he looked around for the vehicle in the vicinity of K-9 Street but could not find it. He then went to the Anonas police station to report the theft.

Las Piñas police reported the vehicle had been abandoned on Naga Road in Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas about 8:15 p.m. on Thursday. *Philip Tubeza*

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[illegible]

Lina questions BJMP chief's credentials

By Alcuin Papa

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina has ordered an investigation on the allegedly questionable educational qualifications of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology officer-in-charge, Chief Supt. Arturo Alit.

Lina yesterday issued a directive to Peace and Order Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar to conduct an immediate investigation on the allegations against Alit.

Lina said concerned rank-and-file employees of the BJMP complained about Alit's allegedly anomalous educational records.

In a letter sent to Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena, concerned BJMP employees claimed that Alit swore in his personal data sheet submitted to the bureau that he graduated from the Magsaysay Memorial College in Sultan Kudarat in 1984.

But in the same data sheet, the employees said, Alit could not have graduated from the Magsaysay Memorial College since he was posted in Metro Manila to the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

"How was Alit able to attend his daily classes in Sultan Kudarat (more than 2,000 kilometers from Manila) when he was administrative officer in Camp Crame and later Camp Bagong Diwa?" the employees said.

They also pointed out that Alit claimed he obtained a master's degree in criminology from the "International University" which the employees said does not have an address.

Also, the employees said Alit should not even be considered for the BJMP post since he is facing malversation charges before the Ombudsman.

The employees said Alit's promotion to the rank of chief superintendent was "obtained under anomalous circumstances."

This is because at the time he was promoted, he had only been on temporary status as senior superintendent, the employees said.

"Clearly, he was lacking in time and grade because he held the rank (senior superintendent) for only a little more than one year," they said.

Lina also ordered Andanar to look into allegations that Alit reportedly gave special privileges to alleged drug queen Yu Yuk Lai.

The BJMP employees said Alit was OIC of the BJMP when members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force arrested Yu at the Holiday Inn Casino in Manila. Yu was supposed to be under detention at the Manila City Jail.

Lina gave Andanar until next week to conclude his investigation of Alit.

Man kills neighbor over pump

By Christian V. Esguerra

A BUSINESSMAN on Wednesday was killed by his neighbor over a water pump to be constructed in their Valenzuela village.

Police said welder Danilo Buban, 41, of Atis Street, Antonio Subdivision, Barangay Dalandanan, stabbed and killed his neighbor, Jesus Tagun, 49.

Witnesses told police that the two men had long been at odds over the planned construction of a water pump in their area.

Buban reportedly got upset with Tagun when the victim refused to agree on the terms of payment for the construction of the water pump.

Since then, Buban had been waiting for a chance to kill the victim, police said.

On Wednesday about 6 p.m., the suspect got his chance when the victim went out of his house to look for his pedicab. Buban stabbed Tagun on the back several times, police said.

The victim died on the way to the Fatima Medical Center in Barangay Marulas.

Police Officers 1 Ronald Bau-tista, Pepito Namoc, and Elmer Ocampo of the Police Community Precinct 6 arrested the suspect two hours after the incident.

Police are set to file murder charges against Buban before the Valenzuela city prosecutor's office.

2 cops survive slay attempts

A PARAÑAQUE policeman was shot and critically wounded while he was on a stakeout early Thursday morning.

PO2 Roldan Laceta, 33, of the Parañaque Police Drug Enforcement Unit, suffered a gunshot wound in the right shoulder.

Police said Laceta was on a stakeout during an anti-drug operation about 2:45 a.m. Thursday when the incident happened.

Laceta was sitting inside a car in front of the Wild Duck nightclub on Roxas Boulevard when the unidentified suspect appeared from out of nowhere and fired a single shot at Laceta, who was sitting on the driver's seat, police said.

After the shooting, the man ran to a vehicle and sped off in it.

Laceta's startled companions brought him to the nearest hospital for treatment.

"It's a good thing I managed to duck a little. If not, the shot could have been fatal," Laceta told his colleagues.

Parañaque police are looking for the gunman based on descriptions of witnesses and Laceta's colleagues.

In Mandaluyong City, two men in motorcycle shot and injured a Camp Crame police-. man in what could be an assassination attempt.

SPO1 Bienvenido Perez, 50, assigned with the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation Services, and a resident of Barangay Ilaya, Mandaluyong was grazed by a bullet in the nape and is now being treated at Lourdes Hospital in Old Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Case investigator PO3 Fernando Aguilan said Perez was changing a flat tire on his car in front of his house when a man approached him at about 5 a.m. to ask for direction to go to a certain place in the area.

Perez said he told the man that he was not familiar with the place since he and his family had just moved in recently to their house.

Minutes later, two men sped by in a white motorcycle, and one of them fired two shots at the victim, police said.

One of the bullets grazed Perez in the head; the other shot missed, police said.

Perez's wife, Jackie, came to the aid of her husband when she heard the gunshots.

Police found empty shells and a magazine from a .45 pistol the suspects apparently used to shoot Perez.

Family members of the victim told police that they did not know of any enemies that Perez might have. *Alcuin Papa*

Pateros police arrest 2 men hours after robbery

By Alcuin Papa

PATEROS police arrested two robbers barely hours after they held up a gas station in Pateros early yesterday morning.

Pateros investigator SPO3 Carmelito Dequino identified the suspects as Leonardo Dizon, 32, of Bambang, Taguig and his nephew Rafael Dizon, 23, of Tuktukan, Taguig.

Police said the Dizons arrived at the Flying V gas station on M. Almeda Street in Pateros on board a tricycle driven by Rolando Labra and casually announced the holdup about 1:45 a.m.

The two poked their fan knives at cashier Lea Barcinas and ordered her to turn over the P9,000 contained in the cash box.

Before they fled on board Labra's tricycle, one of the two suspects stabbed Barcinas on the chest.

Barcinas' co-employees immediately rushed her to the nearest hospital and called the police.

Responding lawmen were able to interview Barcinas as she was being treated. The cashier then described the tricycle the two suspects used to rob the gas station.

Police managed to track down tricycle driver Labra, who continued to ferry passengers after the holdup.

Labra told police he did not know that the suspects were up to no good when he took them on as passengers.

He also led police to where the suspects got down in Tuktukan, Taguig.

By 4 a.m., police have both suspects in custody at the Pateros jail.

Police seized from the suspects two fan knives, a plastic gun and P1,000—all that were left of the stolen money.

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TOMB RAIDER - P 13 10:55, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	ACCIDENTAL SPY - P 13	TOMB RAIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

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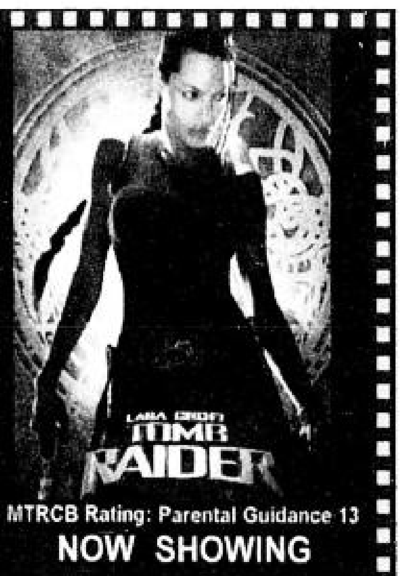

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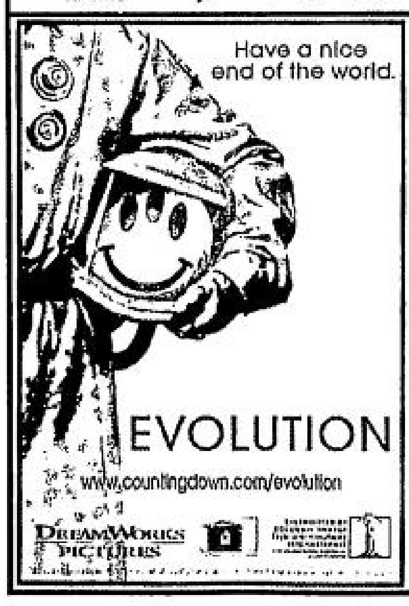

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A team of visual effects wizards, led by Phil Tippett, worked with director Ivan Reitman (GHOSTBUSTERS) to design an ever-evolving assortment of alien creatures, which were then digitally rendered. Tippett created the dinosaurs in JURASSIC PARK and the giant alien insects in STARSHIP TROOPERS.

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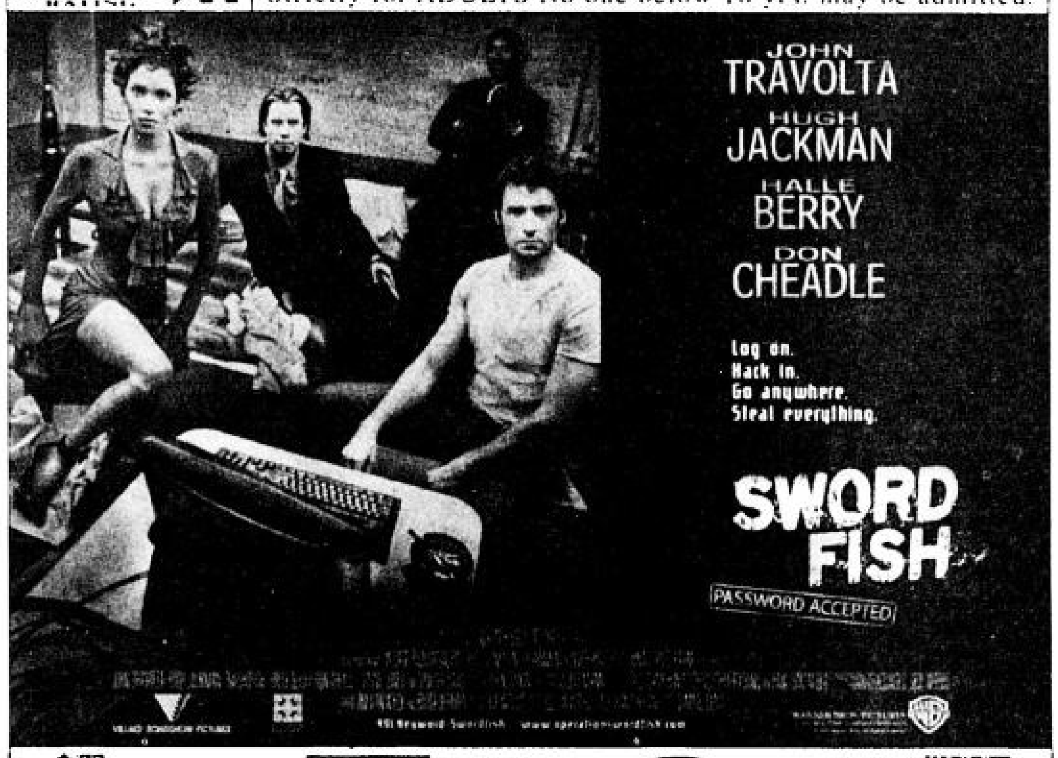

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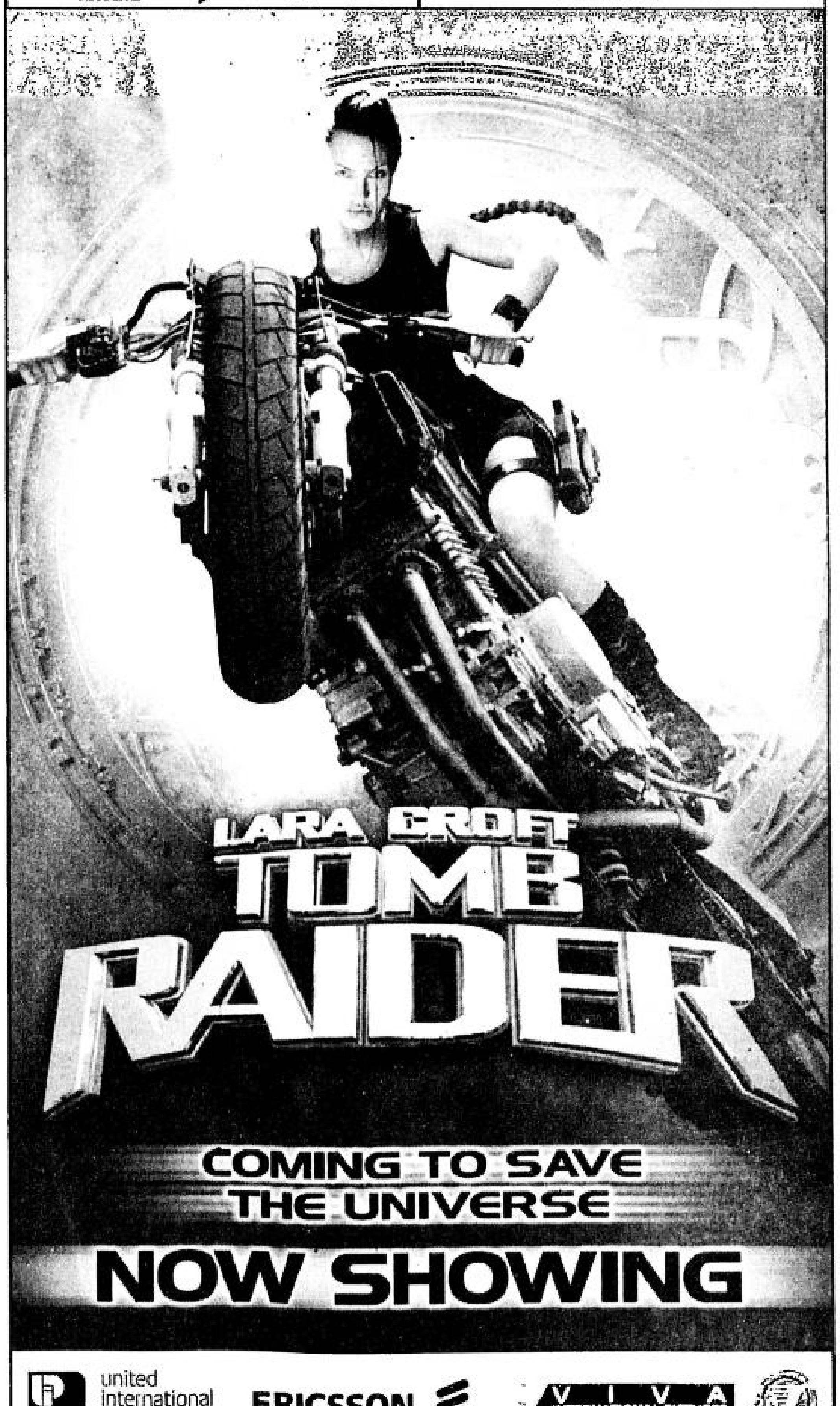

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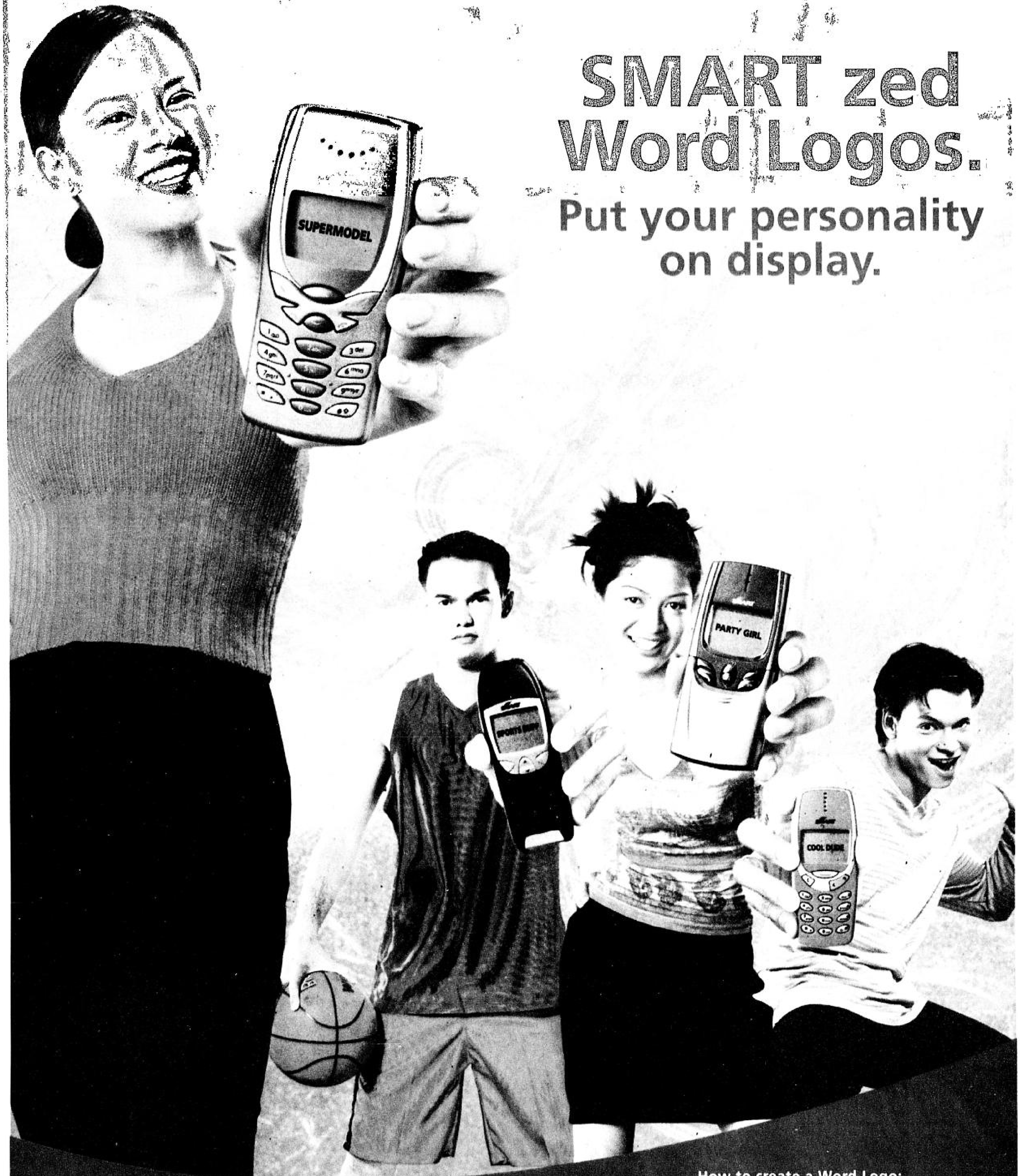

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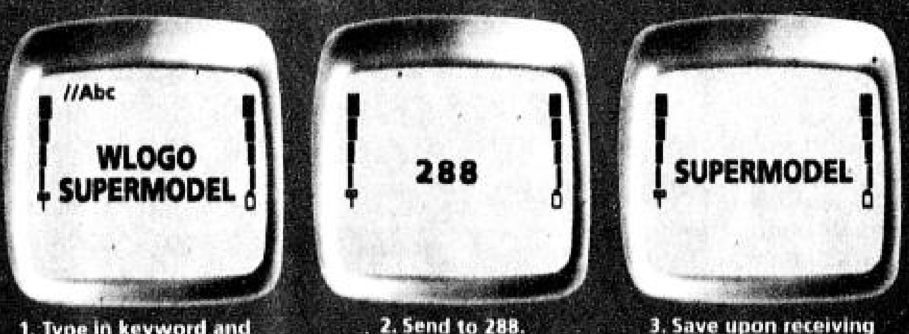

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Business outlook for Q3 brighter

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

MOST Metro Manila-based businesses, still wary of the lingering uncertainties in the economy, have wavered on their expansion plans and decided to maintain a wait-and-see attitude in the second quarter, a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last month showed.

The BSP survey covered 12 major industry groups with the 115 respondent-companies, representing a response rate of 26 percent, drawn from Metro Manila's top 3,000 corporations.

The same businesses surveyed, however, showed a more positive outlook on the economy for the third quarter, the BSP said.

"The survey results indicate a still uncertain overall business outlook in the second quarter. In contrast, respondent firms are anticipating more positive business conditions for the third quarter of 2001," it said.

The factors cited by the respondents for the negative economic outlook include insufficient demand, high interest rates, limited access to credit and "unclear" economic laws.

The BSP said the respondents could be referring specifically to high bank lending rates since the central bank's overnight rates at the time of the survey were already lower than the year-ago levels.

Of the 115 respondents, 67.8 percent gave no definite answer on questions about their third quarter expansion plans while only 18.3 percent said they were still willing to expand.

For the third quarter, businesses hold a more positive outlook due largely to the expected increase in the volume of production, importation, and business activity.

"This is accompanied by expectations of improving market prices, particularly of real estate and community and social services," the BSP said.

The central bank pointed out that the respondents also viewed favorably the "market-friendly" policies and the "reformist platform" of the Macapagal administration.

The BSP said the respondents generally took a positive view on economic indicators for the third quarter except for the average inflation rate, the exchange rate, and bank rates.

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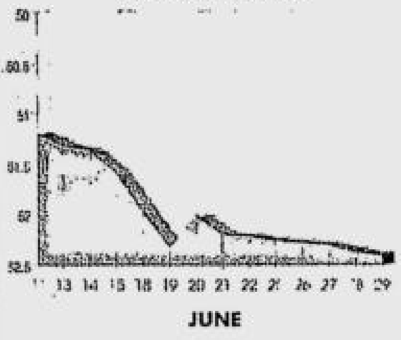

GRAPHS BY RONNIE C. CABUANG

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The US dollar was trading at 124.26 as of 5 p.m., June 29, 2001

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks down

SHARE prices fell 0.3 percent yesterday in the absence of fresh trading incentives, analysts said.

"We don't have volume, basically because there's no trigger that would entice investors to go into the market," said Oliver Plana, head of research at Asiasec Equities Inc.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 4.72 points to close at 1,410.07.

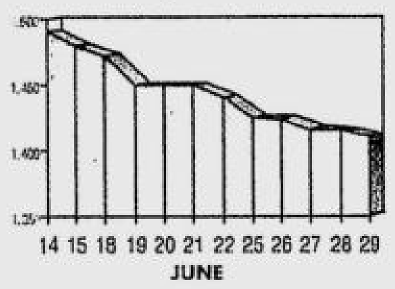
Brokers also cited the weakness of the local currency.

The peso breached the 52.40 to the dollar support in early trade yesterday after closing at 52.37 to the dollar Thursday.

Turnover rose to 1.47 billion shares worth P2.97 billion compared to 440 million shares worth P434 million on Thursday.

The bulk of the trade involved Globe Telecom Inc. shares worth P2.36 billion as the company completed the acquisition of Isla Communications Inc. in a share swap with DeTeAsia Holding, the local unit of German carrier Deutsche Telekom. *AFP*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Benpres considers restructuring; appoints Credit Suisse as adviser

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
AND DORIS C. DUMLAO

BENPRES Holdings Corp., the investment arm of the Lopez family, is seriously considering a restructuring of its $150-million convertible bond float more than a year before it falls due in 2002.

At the same time, Benpres yesterday said in a statement that it had tapped the services of Credit Suisse First Boston to assist the group in drafting a restructuring strategy. CSFB, as financial adviser, will review the group's indebtedness and formulate means to strengthen its capital structure and those of its subsidiaries.

The restructuring option is seen as a strategic move by the cash-short but asset-rich Benpres, which wants to have a wider elbowroom to negotiate with creditors for more favorable terms by seeking restructuring before the IOUs mature.

A top investment banker, who declined to be identified, said Benpres did not want a repeat of its ongoing experience in the restructuring of P15 billion worth of loans of Bayan Telecommunications Inc., its telecommunications arm.

He said a restructuring would free up significant cash flow to Benpres which it could utilize for its ailing subsidiaries, such as Benpres and Maynilad Water Service Inc.

Benpres chief finance officer Angel S. Ong said it was still "premature" to consider a restructuring of the $150 million worth of IOUs although he admitted that this was one of the options that the company could take next year aside from raising cash through asset sales.

Ong said Benpres has just made a semi-annual payment on the $150 million worth of IOUs that it issued in 1997 and it remains current on the bond float which are maturing in December next year.

Benpres is currently reviewing its portfolio and strategic directions amid the difficulties it encountered in its telecom and water distribution ventures.

"CSFB's appointment is part of Benpres' ongoing initiatives to enhance shareholder value and to strengthen the capital structure of the Lopez group," Ong said in a statement.

Aside from its $150 million worth of IOUs, P1 billion of its peso-denominated loans will fall due in September this year and another P2 billion in October 2003.

CSFB is expected to handle the refinancing activities of Benpres as well as its plan to sell certain assets to raise funds to cover maturing obligations.

Earlier, Benpres said it was willing to sell up to $235 million worth of its assets, including a portion of its stake in flagship unit ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp., to wipe out its debts in the next two years.

The assets being considered for divestment include 8 percent of its stake in ABS CBN, 33 percent in a joint venture between its cable subsidiary Sky Vision Corp. and Home Cable, and 25 percent of its holdings in power generation unit First Generation Holdings Corp.

Benpres is expected to raise around $60 million from the sale of half of its 66.5-percent stake in the cable company and another $125 million from the sale of the 25-percent stake in First Gen.

The sale of 8 percent of its stake in ABS CBN is expected to generate between $40 million and $50 million. The holding company currently controls 59 percent of ABSCBN.

The sharp depreciation of the peso as against the dollar hit some of the group's businesses, including telecommunications unit Bayan Telecommunications. To date, he said, Benpres was still trying to find a suitable and permanent solution to Bayantel's $500 million worth of debts incurred for the group's network and service rollout.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. was also badly hit by the peso fall as it absorbed $800 million of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's foreign obligations.

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RP power industry facing stiff competition for FDIs

SINGAPORE—After seven years of debate, the Philippines has adopted a bill to reform its debt-laden power sector, but will face tough competition from other Asian states for foreign direct investments.

With plans for privatization underway throughout Southeast and North Asia, investors in the next few years will be able to cherry-pick opportunities in which to put their cash, analysts say.

"There will be a lot of different assets to buy, so companies have the option of being selective," Stephen Oldfield, Asian utilities analyst for Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong, said.

"South Korea, the Philippines and Singapore are all seeking to sell power assets and you still have China attracting foreign investors in power as well," he said.

The Philippines' power reform bill, under deliberation since 1994, was signed into law in early June, paving the way for the restructuring and privatization of state generator and distributor National Power Corp. (Napocor).

The government is targeting early 2002 to open the bidding for power generation assets, with a wholesale market pool to be set up in 2004. Analysts are skeptical it can meet the timetable.

"The Philippine government has set the stage for deregulation, but implementation is even more complicated, so it could still drag on for years," said Joven Babaan, utilities analyst with JP Morgan Chase in Manila.

The Philippines will face competition on the quality of assets for sale, as well as the political and economic stability it can offer investors, analysts say.

Potential buyers may also be wary of the plans for Napocor to review take-or-pay contracts signed in the 1990s with independent power producers.

"If previous contracts are being renegotiated, there is a fear that even if you sign contracts now, there may be changes to them three or four years down the road," said an analyst with a Western investment bank.

But on a positive note, there is plenty of room for the underdeveloped Philippine power industry to make efficiency gains and for electricity prices to fall.

The Philippine electricity tariffs were among the highest in Asia at about 11 cents per kilowatt hour, Merrill Lynch said in a recent research note. Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand were all cheaper.

"In the Philippines you still have organic growth and there is a lot of room for efficiency gains," JP Morgan's Babaan said.

A report by Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) commissioned by the government in 2000 said the Philippine power market was projected to have 59 percent over capacity this year.

But demand was expected to catch up with supply by 2008, creating room for new power plants, the report said.

Napocor, which generates about half the Philippines' power, is expected to auction about 70 percent of assets, which CSFB valued at between $5.2 billion and $6 billion.

Analysts expect Napocor's generation plants to be grouped into five entities to be sold separately with plants near Metro Manila seen as choice properties due to their proximity to the high demand center and the savings in transmission costs.

Transmission losses are a normal part of distribution but tend to be higher in the Philippines because of the age and inefficiency of the grid system, analysts said. *Reuters*

Globe, Islacom complete merger

GLOBE Telecom , the country's second largest telecommunications company, said yesterday it has completed its merger with mobile phone company Isla Communications Inc. (Islacom).

Islacom now becomes Globe's first wholly owned subsidiary and the merger instantly boosts Globe's market share of the cellular phone industry.

Globe is a joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications International and is already the second largest provider of mobile phone services.

Islacom also provides fixed line and international gateway services.

Globe, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange said the integration of Globe and Islacom yesterday was marked with the listing of 28.83 million new common shares and 158.52 million preferred shares.

The shares were earlier issued to Islacom's principal shareholders DeTeAsia Holding GmbH and Asiacom Philippines Inc.in exchange for 100 percent of the outstanding stock of Islacom. By the market close, Globe ended up P25 at P695.

Globe and Islacom started merger talks a year ago and by end-2000, the two had substantially accomplished aligning back office process changes, including billing, credit, information systems, cash management and accounting policies and procedures. *Reuters*

PriceMart, Ever agree to work on settlement

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRICEMART Inc. and Ever Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc. have agreed to go back to the negotiating table to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute on the continued operation of the American retail giant's S&R Price Membership Shopping at Fort Bonifacio.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas said PriceSmart's local partner William Go and Ever Gotesco's Jose Go have agreed to try to resolve their dispute out of court.

Ever Gotesco successfully obtained a temporary restraining order from the Las Piñas Regional trial Court, which forced PriceSmart to close its doors last Saturday. Ever Gotesco claimed that its 10-year exclusive agreement with PriceSmart to build and operate Price Club-type stores in the country was still in effect.

But PriceSmart quickly got a favorable ruling from the Court of Appeals, which voided the TRO. S&R reopened Tuesday.

Roxas said he and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez were able to convince the two Gos to sit down and explore common areas of concern where they could both agree on.

Roxas said they encouraged the two parties to resolve their differences out of court because the case could drag on forever. "It's not good for the business and for our country," Roxas said.

Roxas said Ever Gotesco had the option to seek arbitration in Australia on its squabble with PriceSmart over the exclusive contract to run these stores in the country. However, the financially troubled retailer could not afford to undertake a legal suit down under.

The DTI and DOJ are keen on solving this issue because PriceSmart, which has committed to invest $100 million in the country with the establishment of at least 10 sprawling shopping centers, was the first and only foreign investor to come in under the Retail Trade Liberalization Act.

DISCLOSURES

BANK of the Philippine Islands will list 788,438 common shares for the converted 14.83 million Ayala Life Assurance Inc.'s shares and 50, 728 common shares for the converted 89,485 FGU Corp. shares on July 2.

***

COSMOS Bottling Corp. will list 23.02 million common shares converting stock certificate no. 36751 on July 2.

***

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. will list 10,978 common shares availed of under the tandem stock purchase and option plan on July 2.

***

ELECTED to the board of **Ionics Inc.** were Lawrence C. Qua, Guillermo D. Luchangco, Leonardo Siguion Reyna, Edgardo M. del Fonso, The Lin Yang, Meliton C. Qua, Raymond C. Qua, Virginia Judy Q. Dy and Vitaliano N. Nañagas II.

***

ELECTED directors of **Crown Equities Inc.** were George L. Go, Gloria L. Tan Climaco, Patrick D. Go, Ricardo S. Murillo, Antonio B. Alvarez, Jerry C. Angping, Charlie S. Baik, Isidro O. Consunji, Richard L. Lee, Ramon A. Recto, Carmelito C. Salazar, Richard Y. Chiongbian, Atty. Fides CorderoTan, Julita M. Valeros and Eugene B. Macalalag.

***

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. disclosed the resignation of Ricardo R. Zarate, Claro Carmelo P. Ramirez and George N. Lim as directors effective June 28.

***

EFFECTIVE July 1, the address of **Zeus Holdings Inc.** will be 17/F BA-Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

***

REALTY and Holdings Corp. changed the venue of its stockholders' meeting to the 4/F, West Tower, PSE Center.

***

ELECTED directors of **Vantage Corp.** were Ben C. Tiu, Willy Ocier, David de Leon, Gregorio T. Yu, William L. Chua, Juan G. Chua, Jerry C. Tiu, Hans T. Sy, Harley T. Sy, Adolfo Suzara and Dexter Tiu.

***

ELECTED directors of **Interphil Laboratories Inc.** were Francisco B. Billana, Michael C. Davis, Fernando Gaite Jr., Kasigod V. Jamias, Jose O. Juliana, Paul Kleiner, Renato B. Magadia, Ricardo J. Romulo and Necisto U. Sytengco.

***

THE BOARD of **First Metro Investment Corp.** approved the declaration of cash dividend amounting to P32.60 per share, the establishment of a 100-percent owned subsidiary to be named FMIC Equities Inc. and the appointment of Noemi B. Cheng as vice president of the corporation effective July 1.

***

THE BOARD of **William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc.** approved the issuance of 40 million shares from its unissued but authorized capital stock for subscription by Aboitiz One Inc. at P2.00 per share. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

e-Science Corp. and Nokia Sign Marketing Referral Agreement

Ricky Dagelet, President e-Science Corporation and Jyrki Halttunen, Vice President Mobile Internet Applications, Nokia Networks, Asia Pacific, seal the pact during the signing of the Marketing Referral Agreement.

Nokia and e-Science (Philippine-based software development company) have recently signed a Marketing Referral Agreement to market e-Science's ePos solution, which allows prepaid mobile users to top up their prepaid mobile accounts from an EFTPOS terminal. ePos has been sucoessfully deployed in the Philippine market and Nokia is working with e-Science to market their EPOS solution to a number of Nokia's customers in other Asia Pacific markets.

Since December 2000, Nokia has been making considerable investment in Manila to establish a Mobile Internet Technology Centre (MITC), given that the Philippines has a considerable number of innovative Mobile Internet development companies. Nokia has established this centre to provide facilities for these companies to integrate and test their applications on the Nokia Mobile Internet Middleware products; mPosition for Mobile Location services and mPlatform for Mobile Portal Services.

The Nokia MITC has already been working closely with a number of 'best of breed' development companies to enable them access to the latest Nokia Mobile Internet platforms, and to assist them with developing and marketing their applications for the global marketplace. A number of these applications were recently showcased at the 'Nokia Connection' held in Singapore's Fullerton Hotel from June 18-20th. A number of Operators, developers, and members of the press attended the event to view the latest Nokia Technology and mobile Internet applications.

During the 'Nokia Connection', Nokia also hosted a two day 'Forum Nokia' Developer Conference, giving developers an opportunity to learn and exchange experiences from their peers as well as hear the highlights of application development in the region from the visiting speakers and Nokia experts.

Nokia is building a world leading developer community and the top service to be offered for developers is the opportunity to commercialise their applications for regional and global sales. Nokia offers these companies commercial and legal advice on how to protect their ideas and how to commercially market and support their applications.

Nokia Developer NetPoint, an alliance of Forum Nokia, is a global developer program which has over 1000 developer companies members worldwide, of which 250 are in the Asia Pacific region. Nokia Developer NetPoint is aimed at application developers who are developing mobile value-added services. e-Science is a participant in Nokia's Developer Netpoint program. The e-Science agreement shows how the program can benefit the developer company and Nokia by bringing innovative applications to the attention of the Mobile Internet community in Asia Pacific.

Nokia's Mobile Internet middleware includes open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to enable applications to be rapidly integrated. The members of Nokia Developer Netpoint program may download the API's free as a part of membership services. Registrations to Nokia Developer NetPoint can be made via www.forum.nokia.com or email developernetpoint.apac@nokia.com.

Nokia is the world leader in mobile communications. Backed by its experience, innovation, user-friendliness and secure solutions, the company has become the leading supplier of mobile phones and a leading supplier of mobile, fixed and IP networks. By adding mobility to the Internet Nokia creates new opportunities for companies and further enriches the daily lives of people. Nokia is a broadly held company with listings on six major exchanges.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 29, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73.5	73.5	72.5	73	258,400
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	1,010
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	37.5	36.5	36.5	76,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	205	200	202	319,330
Philippine National Bank	43	43.5	43	43.5	24,100
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	21	20.5	21	17,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	1,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	12,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	160,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	250	247	250	350
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1380	1380	3,560
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1160	1175	1160	1175	26,990
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	700
Diversified Fin. Network	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	700	670	695	3,369,320
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	97,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	330,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	1,140,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	735	745	725	725	123,370
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.037	0.038	46,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38.5	38.5	38	38	27,700
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55.5	55	55.5	484,100
Petron Corp.	2.14	2.24	2.14	2.24	5,855,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.44	2.34	2.4	4,777,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	350,000
William Gothong & Aboitiz	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	560,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	7	7.9	7	7.9	14,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.2	2,435,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	25,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	1,111,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	317,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	151,200
Rfm Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.58	1.64	3,686,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41	41.5	13,300
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	222,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	89,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.83	1,880,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.84	290,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,008,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	3,872,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.2	1,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	90,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19	700,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	13	12.75	13	3,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.58	1.64	6,802,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	8,990,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	69,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	29	28	28.5	761,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	6,300
Ipeople Inc.	1	1.2	1	1.2	21,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.02	2.04	1,421,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	1,440,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.75	520,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	270,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	3,770,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	58,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	2,620,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	46,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,240,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	2,210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	42,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Music Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.84	401,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	1,400,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	7	7	7	7	8,273,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	2,860,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	52,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	841,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	500	500	500	500	200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.34	2.34	1.92	1.92	472,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	695	700	660	685	11,310
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	269,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.028	122,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,140,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	6,090,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	14,610,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.34	1.04	1.04	3,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.24	2.26	2.24	2.26	15,063,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	24,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	550,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	11,045,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.08	2,600,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	37,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	341,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	2.28	1.9	2.28	79,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.0525	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	117,100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0046	0.0042	0.0046	593,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	14,400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	4,120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.43	0.4	0.42	9,530,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	45,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	12,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	9,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	2,800,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	907,340	125,102,330.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	527,136,700	2,709,403,365.00
PRO	53,005,000	120,477,540.00
Mining	817,870,000	16,298,660.00
OIL	69,800,000	819,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,468,719,040	2,972,101,696.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	574.26	DOWN 5.95
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,007.23	UP 9.57
PRO	530.14	DOWN 7.81
Mining	1,408.01	DOWN 7.25
OIL	1.45	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	781.16	UP 6.92
Composite	1,410.07	DOWN 4.72

NO. OF ADVANCES: 47; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 53; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 135; NO. OF TRADES: 3,057

CURRENCIES

June 29, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.184133	1.000000	52.3660
Japan	Yen	0.009499	0.008022	0.4201
United Kingdom	Pound	1.667851	1.408500	73.7575
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.152007	0.128370	6.7222
Switzerland	Franc	0.657852	0.555556	29.0922
Canada	Dollar	0.778317	0.657289	34.4196
Singapore	Dollar	0.649801	0.548757	28.7362
Australia	Dollar	0.605075	0.510986	26.7583
Bahrain	Dinar	3.141102	2.652661	138.9092
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.315769	0.266667	13.9643
Brunei	Dollar	0.648307	0.547495	28.6701
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000087	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.026163	0.022095	1.1570
UAE	Dirham	0.322476	0.272331	14.2609
Korea	Won	0.000909	0.000768	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.844500	44.2231
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.431786	22.6109
France	Franc	0.152450	0.128743	6.7418
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.383217	20.0675
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061372	3.2138
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.020935	1.0963
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000436	0.0228
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142035	7.4378
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004212	0.2206
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005076	0.2658
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.020935	1.0963
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.072294	56.1517

Landbank sees P1.5-B net income

By Clarissa S. Batino

LAND Bank of the Philippines expressed confidence yesterday that its net income by year's end would hit over P1.5 billion, three times last year's P509 million.

In a news briefing, Landbank president and chief executive Margarito Teves said Landbank's January-May net income surged 225 percent to P697 million. It chalked up a net income of P214 million during the same period last year.

Teves, an economist and former lawmaker, said Landbank's net income was on the back of a 30-percent growth in earnings during the five-month period from P6.6 billion to P8.6 billion year-on-year.

"If the trend continues, we would be able to reach an income of P1.5 billion by yearend," Teves told reporters.

He attributed Landbank's strong earnings to higher income from loans and investments.

Landbank, he added, also gained from a spending tack that allowed it to cut interest expenses by 3 percent to P2.3 billion despite a 5-percent increase in its deposit base to P160 billion.

Teves reported that Landbank's income from its investments from January to May this year surged 67 percent to P3.7 billion.

Interest earnings on investments in bonds and other debt instrument rose to P1.58 billion from P629 million year-on-year, while trading gains from private securities grew to P177 million from a trading loss of P544 million last year, he said.

The bank's income from loans, its principal revenue source, went up by 11 percent to P4.2 billion during the five-month period year-on-year.

Teves disclosed that Landbank chalked up higher earnings despite an increase in its provision for probable losses to P2.1 billion this year from P906 million last year.

The bank's non-performing-loans ratio stood at 23 percent as of May, he said, corresponding to P29.6 billion from 22.8 percent or P26.9 percent year-on-year.

Teves said the bank was continuing efforts to re-focus its lending program and give more attention to its priority clients, mainly small farmers and fisher-folk, as well as small and medium-size enterprises.

He said out of Landbank's P108-billion loan portfolio, small farmers and fisher-folk accounted for only 12 percent while small and medium-size enterprises had only 11 percent. Mass housing had 5 percent.

He said the bulk of Landbank's loans—around 72 percent—still went to commercial clients.

ERRATUM

A photo that appeared on page B5 of yesterday's issue wrongly identified former Ambassador Bienvenido Tan as former Sen. Vicente Paterno. The caption should have read: "INQUIRER business reporter Elena Torrijos accepts a plaque from the Center for Media Freedom & Responsibility. Torrijos was among the finalists for the Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Investigative Journalism. With her are CMFR's Maribel Ongpin and former Ambassador Bienvenido Tan.

GOINGS-ON

RP to host franchise show

ABOUT a quarter of a million visitors are expected to attend the forthcoming Franchise Asia 2001 in Manila in September, a premiere international franchising event in the Asia-Pacific and the biggest so far to be held in the country and in the region.

Franchise Asia 2001 chair and Philippine Franchise Association vice chair Alegria Limjoco announced the activities that will be held from Sept. 12 to 16. These are the top-level council meetings that will be attended by presidents/CEOs of the World Franchise Council and the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation, a conference on franchising and an exposition of franchise companies and products at the World Trade Center.

A counterpart of the other world regional franchise events such as the International Franchise Expo (USA), Franchise Expo Paris, the British International Franchise Exhibition (London), Franchise Asia is organized by APFC and goes to different countries every year through bidding.

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Cardholders from 20 other countries can also call Bankard by dialing +8000-Bankard (where "+" is the country access code).

Corporate gifts show

THE INDUSTRY'S longest-running corporate gifts show can't really help but grow bigger. Now turning 13 and enjoying its status as the Philippines' premier buyers' show on business gifts, promotional items, merchandise incentives and premiums, Corporate Giveaways will hold a colorful exhibit on July 4-7, 2001 at the World Trade Center in Metro Manila.

Presented yearly by World Exhibitions and Conventions Inc. (Worldexco), Corporate Giveaways guarantees corporate decision makers a wide array of top-of-the-line business gifts needed for all-occasion, year-round gift-giving. From the traditional giveaways like pens, T-shirts, mugs and caps, glittering glassware, to elegant awards, and hard-to-find tabletop and desk accessories, Corporate Giveaways 2001 brings all of these and more under one roof.

"July is the month when executives start planning for Christmas giveaways," says Lynne Z. Romero, Worldexco president, "so they make the Corporate Giveaways buyers' show an annual destination for its gives them the opportunity to find gifts not only for Christmas but for all-year round, in one single shopping spree and in one venue."

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We are proud to announce that as per July 1st 2001 the Vitamins Division of Roche (Philippines), Inc. will operate as a separate entity called:

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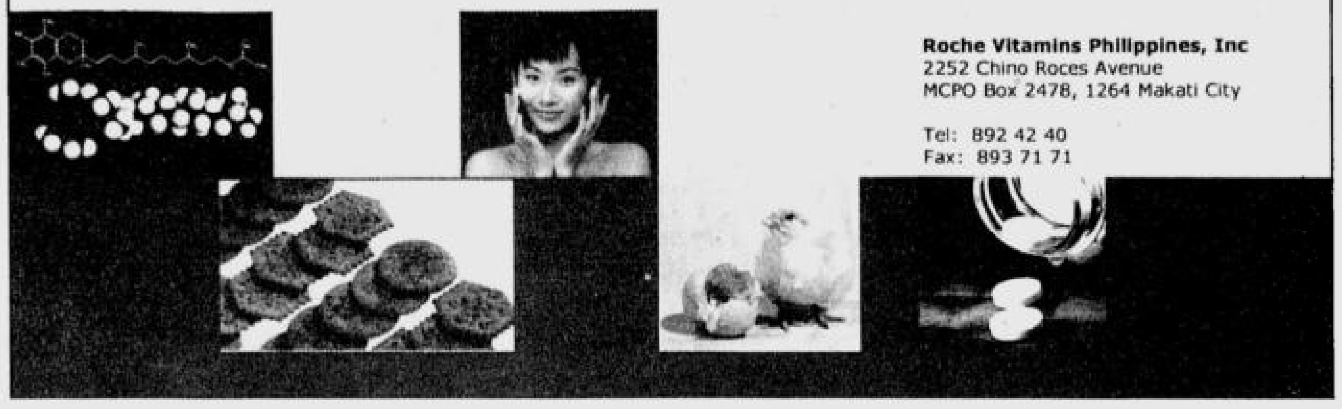

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REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

Political, economic woes hit garments firms

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE COUNTRY'S worsening political and internal security crises have started to weigh down on the country's exports, as foreign buyers have slowed down garments and textile purchases in the first five months of the year.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports were flat at $1.258 billion from January to May, a marked turnaround from its double-digit growth performance last year.

At this pace, the GTEB doubted whether it could duplicate its $3-billion export performance last year.

The GTEB said the "negative publicity generated by domestic events in the country over the last 12 months has affected the placement of orders this year."

Over the last year, the country experienced an impeachment trial and a military-backed civilian revolt that led to the ouster of former actor Joseph Estrada as president and assumption to power of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January this year.

Barely five months in office, Ms Macapagal had survived a failed civilian uprising designed to reinstall Estrada and was now facing various efforts to destabilize her administration.

The Macapagal administration's biggest setback, however, has been its inability to quickly resolve a hostage crisis set off by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in Mindanao. It has also been faced with a resurgence in kidnap-for-ransom syndicates in Metro Manila.

The GTEB said this political crisis had aggravated economic uncertainties triggered by a slowdown in the United States and Japan, major markets of the country's exporters.

The group said exporters were also feeling pressure from tightening competition overseas.

Although exports to the United States improved by 2.71 percent to $959.87 million in the first five months of the year, the GTEB reported that one of the country's biggest American buyers, retailing giant Gap Inc., had cut its purchases.

The GTEB noted, however, that other buyers, like Ann Taylor, Nike, Wal-Mart and Polo Ralph Lauren, recorded a double-digit growth in orders during the January-May period, but it did not say whether these incremental exports were big enough to offset Gap's reduced purchases.

The GTEB admitted that US demand for apparel was not slowing down, saying American manufacturers were just buying more products from other countries.

The group reported that demand in Europe and non-quota markets—which included Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia—shrank 10.19 percent and 5.62 percent, respectively.

The GTEB noted reduced orders from top European buyers such as Otto Versand.

Vitarich net income down 117%

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

VITARICH Corp., the country's third-largest poultry integrator and animal feeds manufacturer, said yesterday that its pre-tax earnings for fiscal year 2000 fell 117 percent to P66.6 million.

Vitarich president Armando Escobar said in a stockholders' meeting that the huge drop in the company's earnings resulted from the peso's weakness against the US dollar.

Vitarich imports most of its raw materials and derives most of its earnings locally.

The peso's weakness against the greenback jacked up costs, he said.

Vitarich's consolidated financial report included earnings posted by its subsidiaries, Gromax Inc. and Breeder Masters Inc.

Vitarich, a 100-percent Filipino-owned broiler and feeds manufacturer controlled by the Sarmiento family of Bulacan, missed its full-year net income target of P100 million.

Escobar told shareholders that Vitarich chalked up P5.43 billion in consolidated sales during its fiscal year, but these were cut by soaring prices of raw materials.

The costs of raw materials grew as a result of the peso's depreciation to as low as 52 to a dollar, he said.

Escobar added that Vitarch was also unable to dispose of its idle assets and other losing ventures, including its restaurant chain, Texas Chicken.

With its existing network of 28 stores, Texas Chicken has been a financial drag to Vitarich as they lose some P70 million a year.

"We were able to register some positive income, but we failed to meet the targets because of the peso devaluation. But we plan to strengthen the company's balance sheets this year by expanding our aqua feeds subsidiary and close down some of our Texas chicken fast-food stores," Escobar told the INQUIRER.

He said that in the first fiscal quarter, "the company plans to put a stop to the financial bleeding" by closing down half its Texas restaurant food chain to only 14 stores.

Only stores inside shopping malls would be kept, he said.

Vitarich has been trying to sell its Texas Chicken retail chain since July last year.

It has, however, been unsuccessful in finding a buyer.

Vitarich had hoped to earn P500 million from the sale of its Texas Chicken stores. It planned to use the money to retire some of its debts.

Vitarich chair Rogelio Sarmiento said Vitarich was still open to a partnership or a strategic alliance.

"It will help us in two ways. We get the money and, at the same time, we get rid of the losses," he said.

Apart from its Texas Chicken network, Vitarich has some P200 million worth of idle assets, including real estate properties.

SQL defies slump, sets offering

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SOFTWARE service firm SQL Wizard Inc. will become the first company to brave the battered stock market this year, jumpstarting the small and medium-size enterprises board when it debuts on July 20.

Property firm Primex Corp., meanwhile, said it would list secondary shares on Aug. 20.

According to a circular issued by the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SQL will hold its initial public offering from July 9 to 13.

The IPO, which will be managed by Pacific Asia Capital Corp., involves 4 million out of 20 million SQL shares at P1.75 each.

Net proceeds from the offering will amount to P5.97 million.

SQL said it planned to spend the money on product development, research and training, and other capital expenditures.

The company's shareholders under lock-up are Alberto Hermoso Jr., Heraldina Salonga, Antonio Lasala, Hermenigildo Hermoso and Enrique Pelaez. Pelaez is chair of the company.

SQL develops and markets software and is an Oracle-certified solutions partner.

SQL's offering is seen as an opener for the new SME board at the stock exchange.

The new board opens up equities trading opportunities to firms with a capital of between P20 million and P100 million.

Primex, meanwhile, will hold its secondary-shares offering from July 19 to 25. It involves 67 million secondary shares out of 300 million common shares. The offer price is set at a range of P1.80 to P2.20 per share.

Primex said proceeds from the offering, worth around P113 million to P138 million, would go directly to shareholders Ernesto Ang, Eduardo Ang, Emilio Ang, Edgar Ang and Ericson Ang, all of whom were unloading their holdings in the company.

Primex's offering, a medium-cost property developer, will be managed by First Metro Investment Corp.

It was earlier expected that under a new dispensation, IPOs would again pick up and lift the stock market from its slump.

Analysts said, however, that continuing political and economic uncertainties stemming from a still-unresolved hostage crisis in Mindanao were souring efforts by local companies to raise capital.

The last IPO in the stock market was held by restaurant chain Pancake House Inc. on Dec. 15 last year.

Apart from Pancake, five other companies went public last year, namely: Canadian insurer Sun Life Financial Inc., technology upstart Diversified Financial Network Inc., Subic-based electronics manufacturer Active Alliance Inc., powder coat manufacturer Corro-Coat Inc., and Macondray Plastics Inc.

DOE sets 'no-deal' road show

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy will take part in a "no-deal" road show to sell the National Power Corp.'s assets to foreign investors.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said earlier this week that the energy department would submit Napocor's privatization plan for Malacañang's approval by mid-August.

"By then, we will have known which assets would be privatized first and what generators are clustered," Perez told reporters.

Earlier this month, then outgoing Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government would consult with prospective buyers on the possible groupings of the generating assets.

"We will do our pre-marketing and the generation companies' groupings would ultimately depend on the prospective investors," Camacho said.

Perez explained most of the generating companies would be transferred to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., although a few would be left behind with Napocor.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act provides that the Agus and Pulangi hydroelectric complexes in Mindanao will be exempted from privatization for about 10 years.

In turn, generating assets for remote and island communities will remain in government hands.

Perez also said he was personally inclined to privatize the National Transmission Corp. first.

"I think it will make the gencos' sale attractive if the buyers know who will manage the Transco," he said.

He added that a $450-million project loan from the Asian Development Bank would greatly help in selling the Transco.

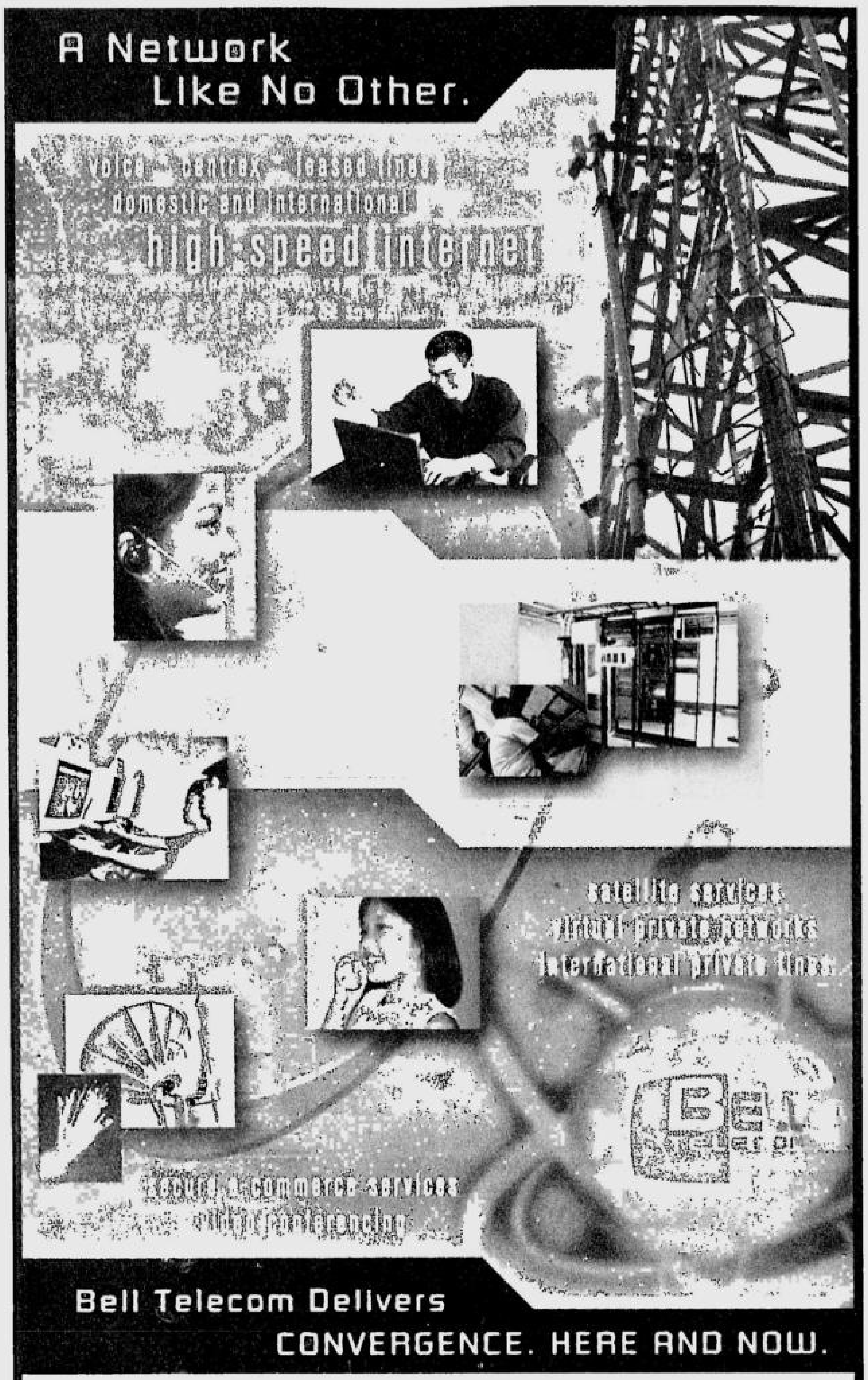
The loan is for the interconnection of Leyte and Mindanao, which is part of an overall move to set up a single national grid for the entire archipelago.

Perez said European investors like Electricité de France and National Grid Plc of the United Kingdom had reaffirmed their interest in Napocor's privatization.

National Grid is particularly interested in Transco.

"Some Japanese firms are also interested," Perez added.

He said with the completion of the privatization plan, the sale of Napocor's assets could start early next year.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Court reverses order to break up Microsoft

WASHINGTON—A US appeals court on Thursday unanimously overturned an order to split Microsoft Corp. in two, but left intact a finding that the software giant illegally used its monopoly in the Windows operating system.

The seven-judge appeals panel agreed that Microsoft held a monopoly in personal computer operating systems and some of its competitive practices amounted to illegal use of that monopoly.

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia also ordered that a new lower court judge look at whether Microsoft illegally tied its Internet browser to the Windows operating system to maintain that monopoly, a question that could have implications for Microsoft's soon-to-be-released Windows XP operating system.

The court overturned a ruling by the lower court judge, Thomas Penfield Jackson, that Microsoft had tried to monopolize the market for Internet browsers. The appeals panel also rebuked Jackson for giving the "appearance of partiality" through his media interviews during the trial.

"Although we find no evidence of actual bias, we hold that the actions of the trial judge seriously tainted the proceedings before the District Court and called into question the integrity of the judicial process," the court said in its ruling.

"We are, therefore, constrained to vacate the (breakup order) on remedies, remand the case for reconsideration of the remedial order, and require that the case be assigned to a different trial judge on remand."

Microsoft said it was pleased by the ruling and suggested it would be willing to head to the bargaining table.

"Today's ruling drastically narrows the case and removes the breakup cloud from the company," Microsoft spokesperson Jim Cullinan said. "We will continue to work to resolve the remaining issues without the need for continued litigation, which benefits no one."

The US Justice Department also welcomed the appeals court finding that Microsoft engaged in illegal conduct to maintain its monopoly over personal computer operating systems. "This is a significant victory," Attorney General John Ashcroft told reporters at a news conference.

Charles James, the department's top antitrust enforcer, said the decision vindicated the department on its core claim that Microsoft engaged in anti-competitive conduct to preserve its monopoly position in computer operating systems.

The White House said it was too early to conclude that the Justice Department would pursue the case less vigorously during President Bush's administration than it had under former President Bill Clinton. "I think it's too soon to make any conclusions," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

Some antitrust experts said even though the appeals court threw out the government's breakup plan, it was not a clear victory for Microsoft.

"The main features that we see are an affirmation on the monopolization, so it's going to become very difficult for Microsoft to continue in its central position that it is not a monopolist and that it did not abuse its monopoly power," Andy Gavil, professor of law at Howard University in Washington DC, said. "That much the court of appeals has agreed with."

The appeals court agreed with Jackson that Microsoft had used its monopoly power to maintain its marketing dominance. Specifically, the judges cited the company for co-mingling the computer code of Internet Explorer with Windows code and excluding Internet Explorer from the Windows add/remove program.

The court also affirmed Jackson's contention that the company abused its power by making exclusive deals with software developers, Internet access providers and other companies in the industry. *Reuters*

Gates says ruling lifts breakup cloud

REDMOND, Washington—Microsoft chair Bill Gates said Thursday a federal appeals court decision in the government's antitrust case "lifts the cloud of breakup over the company" and may open the way for a settlement.

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on Thursday upheld a lower court's conclusion last year that Microsoft violated federal antitrust laws. But, by a 7-0 vote, the appeals court ordered that a new judge decide what penalty the company should face because US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson gave the appearance he was biased against Microsoft.

"We're pleased with the reversal, we're pleased with what the appeals court has laid out here," Gates told a news conference at company headquarters in this Seattle suburb. "We feel very good about what the court has written here."

Gates said the decision could open the way to a settlement of the antitrust case.

"It's a good time for all the parties involved to sit down and see what kind of resolution could be worked out," Gates said. "It's absolutely worth making an effort there." *AP*

Japan's jobless rate hits 4.9%

TOKYO—Japan's struggling economy got another jolt Friday as the government announced that the unemployment rate in May edged up to 4.9 percent, matching the record high last hit early this year.

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, has been unable to break out of a decade-long economic slowdown, its most stubborn and protracted since the end of World War II.

Higher unemployment is particularly worrisome as it damps consumer spending, a key growth engine for an economy already slowing due to waning exports and declining industrial production.

The jobless rate also hit 4.9 percent in December 2000 and January of this year. The rate stood at 4.8 percent in April and 4.7 percent in February and March. May's rate, announced by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, was in line with economists' expectations.

The number of employed workers in May fell by 300,000 from a year ago to 64.73 million for the second straight month of decline, the ministry said. The ranks of the unemployed rose by 200,000 to 3.48 million, marking the second straight month of rises. *AP*

Dollar too strong?

NEW YORK—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill says they should. Foreign exchange experts say they should. So why are US exporters dragging their feet and not buying insurance to protect them from the dollar's might?

Despite an array of tools with which firms can protect themselves against dizzying currency swings, a feeling that the dollar had nowhere to go but down this year left many US exporters fully exposed to the currency's ongoing surge.

And with the US government saying it has no intention of standing in the way of the dollar's rise, companies are now under more pressure than ever to bite the bullet and protect their foreign revenues.

"Now they have no choice but to do it," said Bernard Tsui, vice president and forex advisor at Union Bank of California.

On Thursday, the euro was traded as low as 84.35 cents, uncomfortably near lifetime lows at 82.25 cents.

But even though many see the euro as having further to fall as monetary and fiscal tonics lift US economic gloom, Tsui says many corporate treasurers are still holding out for the euro to get back above the 86-86.6 cents area, which would mean they could buy more protection for less money.

But analysts say this may be an overly hopeful attitude, which may make US exporters pay even more dearly. *Reuters*

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630.70 corner Blumentrit F.Huertas 4262998 Brite

QUEZON CITY

LOCATION!! LOCATION!! Malamig cor Matahimik Sts. nr QC City Hall, Claret Sch, Government Offices, Sulo Hotel, Hospitals, adjacent UNILAINE Grocery & other business establishments
747m² w/old hse
Contact: RVRONQUILLO
9410226•9412873

PROVINCIAL

•SUBIC 9 has.+ good 4 subd 0919-2300217

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

310sqm lot 2stry 4BR w/bath w/attic & maid's qtr w/ bath 4 car garage 2152 Fatima St. San Miguel Village, Makati P16M Call:8975127or28/8903229

House & Lot 4 Sale 465m² 165T/m² Makati Ave., 890-1830

MANILA

NEW 4STY THSE SEM. FRNSH 3.4M 5639478/09196471254

MANDALUYONG

Capitolyo Pasig 631-3496

Mand. H&L 2Stry 300m² Call 534-6610 Jojo

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Rush Sale Multinational Village D'Buyer 2 stry 6BR 4T&B 2 car grg. tel. line w/ pool w/ins. LA 300 sqm FA 240sqm 7M call Mrs. Arenas 820-7843

Tahanan Vill 300sqm 3BR 3TB MR 4CG P5M 928-2497

Tahanan Vill 300sqm P3.5M (Neg) 928-2497

PASIG

Greenwoods Hse & Lot Call 534-6610 Jojo

New Mla 1000m² Modern Style w/ pool • 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

Fairview Park 446m² P5M nr Fview hosp JR 4308727

HL SIKATUNA La412sqm Fa150sqm STUDIO TYPE UNIT 922-1466

LOYOLA GRAND VILLA LA401m FA460m 4BR 6TB Tel 4352346 0917-7062620

Loyola Heights Subd P8M T9840150 / 09194041057

PLEASANT VIEW QC New Bungalow & Lot LA230m² FA210m² call T9297052/54

Proj. 2 B'new 2Stry w/Roof Deck 3br 4tb P2.8M Cash or Terms 724-2629 or 434-8186 #29 Marang St.,

Proj. 2 B-new B'ful 3Stry P4M Cash/Terms #19 Kubili St., Tel. 434-8186 or 724-2629

SANVILLE Subd U/D 3br3tb 2car grge mds rm 4540512

SFDM nr SM North 374sqm Call (042)301-8197 Ding

Sikatuna Vill B'new Very Big B'ful 5br 7tb w/Family Rm. P12M Cash or Terms 434-8054 #13 Mapagkumbaba St.,

RIZAL

Fairmont LA1,090sqm FA400 12M Neg 6503393

Milagros Subd 3DR Aprt LA299 Bldg80 sqm 6503393

Mtalban 5200/mo 6495616

RUSH 4BR 4TB 2CarGarage Lanai Den Terace 6556284

SAN JUAN

Rush 165sqm cor 6556284

PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay new Resthouse near Church Csh or Swap w/ Suv+Cash 046-4134249

LOT

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

ALABANG

Ayala Alabang 375sqm Batangas West 725-2268 or 0919-6340665 Cecile

MANILA

150 Carola nrUST 8220974

256sqm D. Santiago Samp. Call 714-4376/ 435-6293

MANDALUYONG

Boni Ave 450m² P22/m² VLot Comm'l 5325487 5310651 Te

PARANAQUE

MARCELO 240m² 645-9931

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PASIG

Pasig GreenPark 200m² P5T/m² nr Malls 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

180m²Nviches Cal 4186212

CAPITOL HOMES QC 551sqm Call 0919-4227654

Loyola Grand 448.500 w/view 500kat ext. P6T 0919-8310592

Loyola Grand 600m² @ P8500 Call 09185079799

RIZAL

Antipolo 2564m² @P3T/ m² w/ Factory Rush 6812457

East Acropolis Taytay choice resdl lots 6582115/16

•SFDM QC 519 SQM 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

•Taytay 10790sqm Comml 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

PROVINCIAL

SUBIC 96,828m²
4 subd. 047-9134120 Jhun

OTHER AREAS

108m² 3T/m² NEG 5639478

TGTY-VOLCANO VIEW 459M² NR. HIGHLANDS 641-7760/61

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

LEGASPI TOWERS 300 120m 20/F 2BR2TB furnished T-9251467/9297052/4

Legaspi Towers ovrlooking Mla Bay 2BR 2TB 6556284

Salcedo Vll 1BR FF + PS P3.5M 911-7940

MANILA

ANTEL SEAVIEW TOWERS Roxas Blvd 20th flr 5BR3TB 226m² incl. 3 parking slot 6811766 • 0991-6089820

MANDALUYONG

Cheap Condo P2.1M 4br 2tb 120sqm nr Mega 800-6890

No Down Payment
Pre-Selling/Ready 30% D.P.
Nr. Megamall / Shangri-La
Call 639-0935 / 0919-2002193 Andry

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Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

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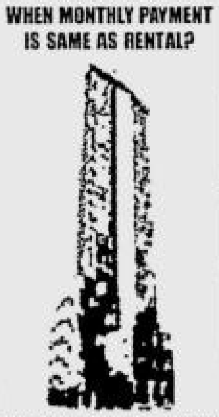
WILL YOU THINK 2X B4 BUYING OUR CONDO WHEN MONTHLY PAYMENT IS SAME AS RENTAL?



Located nr. Roxas Boulevard
DP = 25T - 81T/month
Pay in 10 mos. @ 0 interest
BAL = 11T - 27T/month
Pay in 10 years
8346841, 8317046, 5517901/02

PASIG

Land Mark II Valle 4M 911-4460

ALEXANDRA 260SQM 17M 412-1825 / 09177914366

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V. VERDE Mansions 3BR's 3T&B, Mds Rm., Parking, Newly Renovated 724-0669

QUEZON CITY

C-5 Mindanao Ave 680T & Up / Unit 3yrs to pay 0% Int 9256340 / 09185079799

Cubao Condo New P1.3M RFO 9120647 9124428 4381480

Nice TH Grace Vll LA158 FA278M² P9M 911-7940

Rush Sale CUBAO 726-4815

54sqm FF 3BR nr UDMC (H)7426028 (O)3643505 Carol

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

Timog P913,500
Studio 1-2br 0% 4181820-21

TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M 2cgrge DBO 0917-8143792

PARANAQUE

BF PQ 3BR/TB MDS RM-TB 1car P3.5 911-7940

Nice TH BF Resort Vil Las Pinas 1.6M 911-7940

MEMORIAL LOT

Holy Cross 4lots 6556284

Mla Meml Sucat 4504512

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

FOREST H PLAY RTS FREE OR SALE 250K 642-2082

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Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

Fully Operating / Earning Farm 5323291 or 5339225

MABITAC 5HA. O-LOOKING ALONG HI-WAY 641-7760/61

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

Abad Santos 12T 7816319

New 2BR Mindanao cor Samar 7145341-42/ 4356293

SnMiguel St.Jude T-7356427

PASAY

STUDIO TYPE tel.# 8317143/ 8337293 Look for Amy

QUEZON CITY

2BR 56 Waling Waling St., Roxas Dist. Call 371-3205

3BR 2 TB W/GRGE 4338152

SAN JUAN

2BR 1TB 1 park 111 Hoover P12Th Tel-724-4645

HOUSE

MAKATI

42 Zodiac St., Bel-Air Newly Renovated, Split Level, 5BR 3TB Mds Rm. w/TB, Garden, Garage T7218847, 7218801

MANILA

1BR w/GR NEW P16T 1547 F.Agoncillo near Pedro Gil

MARIKINA

Monte Vista Subd Semi Furnh P25T/mo 6503393

PARANAQUE

BN HL Multinatl LA480m² FA400m² P15M 911-7940

Duplex LA183m² 3BR P3.8M 911-7940

QUEZON CITY

Nr UP Dillman 5243126

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

EUROVILLA I
Legaspi Village
Very near Greenbelt 120 m². 2BR with 2 T/B plus maid's room with own T/B. Well maintained. 100% generator. Tastefully furnished. With parking space. Available August
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GRAND TOWER
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Legaspi Village. Very near Greenbelt, 1-BR, very spacious, 76 m². Tastefully furnished. Spacious, bright, with excellent ventilation, With parking space and swimming pool.
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CONDO/TWNHSE

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New Fully Furn Condo Type Duplex 4BR 4TB Nr Wack' Ghills IS & Brent Pvt Cmpnd w/Pool Mini Park Genset 24Hrs Security Call 532-3263 • 718-2701 Weekdays; 531-6989 Weekends

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PASIG

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Renaissance 2000 3br+3tb FFurn'd 18th 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

QC Twnhse 4BR 3TB comp accesssible P15T 9328965

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Duplex 3BR 2TB 1cg nice kitchen 275 Ermin Gracia Cubao nr Aurora 426-2998

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Mkti Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995386

WANTED LADYFLATMATE Dian Makati House CarGarage Garden 8441792

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HOME APPLIANCES ETC.
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4sty Bldg Suitable for Apartelle West Ave., QC 911-7954 / 911-6958

•Tektite East 50sqm @250 412-1825 / 09177914366

OfcRes nr España 631-9964

STORE SPACE FOR RENT W/IN U-BELT RECTO 10-14 SQM 7355741/43

•TAIPAN 3Exe Rms @ 400 412-1825 / 09177914366

RESORT

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

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2Set Korea Billard Table 22T Each 5319560 Abet

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TOYOTA RAV 4
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HIAce L300 Urvan 8264223

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L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

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ROTT PUPS QC 951-1456

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E-mail: herway@pacific.net.ph / Website: www.herway.com.ph
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40 KVA P190T 3672002

20 qthobart mixer canteen food warmers Tel. 9403062

IceBuko Machine 0447914509

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30-35yrs old w/ref. of prev. amo stayin 7218942 7217801

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Good Communication Skills
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Offc Staff @ 9134470 -AL

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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- Male, 26 to 30 years old
- With minimum 3 years experience in vertical/horizontal construction
- With knowledge in estimating and project supervision

Please mail bio-data with recent photo indicating desired salary to:

UG-19 Cityland Dela Rosa Condominium,
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HOUSE & LOT FOR SALE

840 Squaremeter
with 2 houses
with 7 garage
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1,182 sq.ms.
Gabriela St., Tondo, Manila near Tutuban Mall; 1 lot away from Dagupan Street
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Terms: P2M down; P10M after 1 month; P8M final payment
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Capitol Drive, Diliman, Quezon City
FAIRWAY LOT
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ANNOUNCEMENT

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW Ideal 4 Tiange 3738821

RTW P28 up/caps 7274934

Consultant P25T/mo. 8951381

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the deposits of the late Glenda Y. Aricheta has been extrajudicially settled by heirs on June 16, 2001 under Doc.# 695; Page # 71; Book No. III; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Antonio G. Malonzo PDI-(June 23, 30 & July 7, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the late ELIZER D. VISPO was extrajudicially settled by his only heirs under Doc# 248, Page# 51, Book# 67, Series of 2001, before Notary Public Atty. Quirico L. Pilotin of Santiago City Isabela.
(PDI- June 30, July 7, & 14 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EUSEBIO M. MINAS of Sta. Cruz Zambales has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No 89; Page No 18; Book No I; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Al I Perreras PTR No. 18 25292 whose Commission expires on 31 December 2001.
(PDI- 6/ 23,30 & 7/ 7/2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that BPI Stock Cert. 165101 issued to Victoriana C. Ligan was lost as notarized by Atty. Danilo M. Lombos under Doc.# 9 Page#1,Book#7,Series 2001 (PDI-June 30,July 7&14,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the ff. Official Receipts of SkyCable Series#70101A-70150A,70151A-70200A were lost. Any Transaction covered by any said receipts will be honored by SkyCable

This is to inform the public that S2#9700R98 829 of Dr. Jane Dela Paz was lost11

This is to inform the public that S2#16614N99 Dated 4 /14/99 of Dr. Rafael Vera Cruz was lost

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified bidders by way of sealed bids for the supply and delivery of:

SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Executive Clerk, 7th Floor, PPSTA Building, No. 4 Banawe Avenue corner P. Florentino Streets, Quezon City. Meeting/bidding will be held at the Conference Room, 6th Floor. The bidding schedules are as follows:

JULY 11, 2001, 10:00 AM	- Pre-bid meeting
JULY 18, 2001, 10:00 AM	- Last day of submission of prequalification requirements
JULY 25, 2001, 10:00 AM	- Last day of submission of bid proposals and opening of bids

NLRC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as, waive any defect or informality on the bids received, accept the offer most advantageous to the government and does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **PERLITA B. VELASCO**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 29 & 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Tarlac City
Tel. No. 982-0717 • Fax 045 982-0110

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Tarlac State University invites contractors with at least "Medium A" Building Category classification to pre-qualify and to bid for the **REHABILITATION OF THE OLD SHOP BUILDING FOR THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES PHASE II.**

All interested parties may secure pre-qualification documents upon presentation of Letter of Intent and original copies of Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration for authentication at the PBAC Secretariat TSU Administration Building, and take note of the following schedules.

Submission of Letter of Intent	June 29 - July 2, 2001
Submission of Pre-qual documents	July 6, 2001
Issuance of Notice of Pre-qualified Contractors	July 16, 2001
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 19-20, 2001
Site Inspection	July 19-20, 2001
Pre-bidding Conference	August 13, 2001
Bidding	August 20, 2001

The TSU-PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **CECILIA M. NERIDA**
PBAC Chair

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DOLORES G. MATIAS**
President

(PDI--June 29, 30 & July 2, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that San Miguel Corporation Stock Cert. Nos. A-B94066491 for 9,276 shares, B93033798 for 1,546 shares, B92022814 for 702 shares, B89005171 for 3,514 shares, B89001596 for 1,757 shares, B88001377 for 229 shares, B88001377 for 299 shares, B86003162 for 364 shares, B81022821 for 220 shares and B80018159 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Linda G. Romualdez. Stock Cert. Nos. B-A94151216 for 1,683 shares, B94066489 for 9,313 shares, B93033796 for 1,552 shares, A93078660 for 280 shares, A92033612 for 127 shares, B92022812 for 705 shares; A89033799 for 638 shares, B89005169 for 3,528 shares, B89001594 for 1,764 shares, A89012048 for 319 shares; A88007034 for 41 shares, B88001375 for 230 shares, A86014542 for 36 shares, B86003160 for 200 shares, A81089043 for 22 shares, B81022819 for 121 shares, A80072055 for 20 shares and B80018157 for 110 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez. Stock Cert. Nos. B- B94066492 for 9,276 shares, B93033799 for 1,546 shares, B92022815 for 702 shares, B89005172 for 3,514 shares, B89001597 for 1,757 shares, B8801378 for 229 shares, B86003163 for 364 shares, B81022822 for 220 shares and B80018160 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Ma. Mediatrix R. Vergel de Dios, Stock Cert. Nos. B- B94066490 for 9,276 shares, B93033797 for 1,546 shares, B92022813 for 702 shares, B89005170 for 3,514 shares; B89001595 for 1,757 shares, B88001376 for 229 shares, B86003161 for 364 shares; B81022820 for 220 shares and B80018158 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Bernardita R. Lucano, Stock Cert. Nos. A.A94151217 for 9,276 shares,, A93078661 for 1,546 shares, A92033613 for 902 shares; A89033800 for 3,514 shares, A89012049 for 1,757 shares; A88007035 for 229 shares, A86014543 for 364 shares, A81089044 for 220 shares and A80072056 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Concepcion R. Romualdez, have all been declared lost, per Affidavits of Loss, both dated May 15, 2001, executed by Linda G. Romualdez-Tiu, Ma. Bernardita R. Lucano and Concepcion R. Romualdez and ratified before Notary Public, Ma. Cecilia P. Subido of Makati City.

(PDI--June 30, July 7, 2001)

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Brgy Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel No (047) 244-7441
Telefax No (047) 244-0363

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I.	Work Order No.	WSC-00-012
II.	Project Title	**Construction of PPDC Fire Station and Motorpool**
III.	Scope of Work	Construction of PPDC Fire Station and Motorpool
IV.	Project Location	Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V.	Approved Budget	Pesos Nine Million Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight and 98/100 (P9,016,528.98)
VI.	Source of Funding	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII.	Estimated Contract Duration	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
VIII.	PCAB License Minimum Requirement	
	Classification	Medium A
	Category	Building and Industrial Plants
IX.	Similar Contracts	Construction of Buildings and Other Industrial Facilities
X.	Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement	Pesos Nine Hundred One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two & 90/100 (P901,652.90)
XI.	Eligibility Statement Forms	One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
	Cost of Forms	One Hundred Pesos per set (P100.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	June 20 to July 03, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility / Statements Documents	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before July 10, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
XII.	Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility	
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 02 - 30, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIII.	Pre-bid Conference	
	Date and Time	August 23, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Venue	PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration
XIV.	Bid/Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
	Cost of Documents	One Thousand Pesos per set (P1,000.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 31 to August 14, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before September 14, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Place of Submission	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department

XV. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification / eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidders whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 21, 26 & 30, 2001)

OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Dad Cleland Avenue, Lapulapu City
Cebu, Philippines

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

NOTICE is hereby given that the amended articles of incorporation of **OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.** shortening the term of its existence and thereby dissolving the said corporation as of **31 May 2001** and a balance sheet showing that no creditors thereof will be affected by such dissolution have been filed with the Securities and Exchanges Commission. All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present the same as its principal office at **Dad Cleland Avenue, Lapulapu City, Cebu**, for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

Cebu City, Philippines on 15th of June 2001.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIETA S. ALFANTE**
Assistant Corporate Secretary

(PDI - June 30, July 7 & 14, 2001)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the printing of a) 5000 b) 10000 Philippine Banknotes Brochure, the detailed specifications of which can be obtained from the Manager, Procurement Division I, Administrative Services Department, at Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-storey building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo, Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Interested printers must have the following equipment in good operating conditions

Pre-Press

Computer, Color Scanner, Color Film Proofing, Vertical Horizontal Camera, Contact Printer, & Film Processor

Press

2 units 2-color offset machine (minimum)

Post Press

Complete binding and finishing machines (Automatic Paper Cutter, Folding, Stitching, Die Cutting, Perfect Binder & Hot Stamping machines)

Quality Control

Equipment to insure quality color reproduction (Densitometer, protocol, caliper, Macbeth viewing light, etc.)

In addition to the above, interested printers are required to submit at the above-mentioned address not later than July 12, 2001, photocopies of the following documents (original of Nos. 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. 2000 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement),
3. Latest Income Tax Returns;
4. Minimum working capital of P1 million and a networth of P2 million,
5. Company history/profile of the bidder, and
6. List of local clients (complete with their addresses/telephone/fax numbers).

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in bidding which will be held on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI - June 30, 2001)

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE 6,149 sq.m. LAKESIDE LOT in Brgy. Cupang, Muntinlupa, P15,000/sq.m. CLEAR TITLE. CALL 0919-710-5389, 0916-324-0421

INVITATION TO BID

6 Units - "ANDERSON" Super-duo expellers complete with 40/50 HP electric motors, equipped with screw-type conditioners, with variable feeder and electrical controls, on an "as-is-where-is" basis.

These maybe inspected at no. 19 Felix Manalo Street, San Juan, Metro Manila. Those interested may submit their sealed bids to the above address not later than July 16, 2001.

For further details, please contact 726-8013 (Gerry) or 726-0921 to 24 (Diony Pusong).

(PDI – June 28, 29 & 30, 2001)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City Philippines
Tel No (02) 841-0644
Telefax No (02) 810-8418
Brgy Batangas Dos
Mariveles Bataan
Tel No (047) 244-7441
Telefax No (047) 244-0363

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I	Work Order No.	WSC-00-043
II.	Project Title	**PPDC Main Entrance Upgrading**
III.	Scope of Work	Main Entrance Upgrading, Const. of Security Guards Facilities, Removal of Existing Canal, Sidewalk, Curbs and Gutters and Relocation of Existing Road Lighting and Electrical Distribution System
IV.	Project Location	Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V.	Approved Budget	Pesos Eight Million Two Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Nine and 10/100 (P8,297,469.10)
VI.	Source of Funding	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII.	Estimated Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days
VIII.	PCAB License Minimum Requirement	
	Classification	Medium A
	Category	Road, Highway Pavement, Horizontal Structures and Bridges/Building and Industrial Plant
IX.	Similar Contracts	Construction of Roads, Highway Pavement of Subdivisions, Villages to include Drainage Systems and Entrance Gates
X.	Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement	Pesos Eight Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Six & 91/100 (P829,746.91)
XI.	Eligibility Statement Forms	One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
	Cost of Forms	One Hundred Pesos per set (P100.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	June 20 to July 03, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility / Statements Documents	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before July 10, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
XII.	Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility	
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 02 - 30, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIII	Pre-bid Conference	
	Date and Time	August 23, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Venue	PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration
XIV	Bid/Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
	Cost of Documents	One Thousand Pesos per set (P1,000.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 31 to August 14, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before September 14, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.
	Place of Submission	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department

XV. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification / eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidders whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
BAC - Chairman

(PDI - June 21, 26 & 30, 2001)

PHILIPPINE 2000

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

June 22, 2001

Early Childhood Development Project

Loan No. 4301-PH
IFB No. ECD-PMO-011DSWD-002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of Information Technology (IT) Equipment.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Project Management Office (PMO) of the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment. This includes twenty-nine (29) units each of Hi-end Brand Desktop Computer with Modem, Laser Printer and Uninterruptible Power Supply.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a letter of intent, starting **July 4 until July 6, 2001** from Ms. Maricris Jacinto of the Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) 931-8161, (632) 931-8101 to 07 local 125, and fax no. (632) 951-7116.
4. Bids must be received in a sealed envelope (complete with all requirements) by Ms. Maricris Jacinto at the same address not later than **July 18, 2001, 10:00 a.m.** Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two percent (2%) of total bid price. Late quotations will not be accepted.
5. Prior to submission of bid proposals, a **Pre-Bid Conference will be held on July 11, 2001, 2:00 p.m.** at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
6. The DSWD Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) Asst. Sec. **LOURDES G. BALANON**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - June 30 & July 1, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the

U.P. DILIMAN FACULTY DORMITORY COMPLEX PROJECT

Property measuring approximately 11,700 square meters, bounded by Ma. Guerrero, Agoncillo and Magsaysay Streets (fronting the International Center), UP Diliman, Quezon City to be developed under BOT scheme as a complex which includes an 80-room Hostel and a 320-room Faculty Dormitory.

Prequalification Forms and Terms of Reference may be obtained from the UP Diliman Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat, Room 101 College of Business Administration, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from July 9 to 13, 2001. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on July 30, 2001. After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified developers shall be duly notified of the schedule of activities associated with the process. For inquiries, please call tel. no. 928-4571 loc. 1011 - c/o Ms. Chona Hipol.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI – June 30 & July 1, 2001)

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of

MULTINATIONAL INVESTMENT BANCORPORATION

condole with their
Chairman, Ramon K. Ilusorio,
whose father,

ATTY. POTENCIANO T. ILUSORIO

passed away on June 28, 2001.

We request the readers to pray for the
eternal repose of his soul.

---

*"God is not like hunter who awaits his prey's slightest slip in order to fire a shot.
Rather He is like a Gardener who takes good care of His flowers and waters them,
and only cuts them when they're at their best, in full bloom.
God takes souls to Himself when they are ripe."*

Blessed Josemaria Escriva

Hon. ALEJANDRO "ALEX" ASISTIO FIDER

Former Kalookan City Vice Mayor, CFI Judge, Kalookan City Mayor and Assemblyman, Interim Batasang Pambansa

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on June 27, 2001 at the age of 73.

His loving wife **Nila**; children **Alex** and **Merchie Olivares**; **Erlito** and **Ester Allas**, **Bing** and **Lenchen Abello**, **Ferdi** and **Karen Anastacio**, **Amifaith** and **Jed Reyes**, **Hope** and **Sean Tully** and **Charo**; brother **Gen. Gregorio Fider**; grandchildren **Vania**, **Cyril** and **Alistair**, **Karla**, **Yssa**, **Bea** and **Guia**; **Mayee**, **Katrina** and **Carl Young**, **Nicole** and **Andy**; **Finina** and **Aimee**; **Kristina** and **Alessandra Tully**; relatives and friends request the readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine at Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 1, 2001 at the Eternal Gardens, North Diversion Road after the 1:00 PM Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine.

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary of

Margaret Ranoco Lim

of Pasay City

Holy Mass will be offered today, Saturday, June 30, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at exactly 10:00 a.m.

Her loving family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember Garet in their prayers.

SIMEONA BASTO BAAY

(Nanay Nona)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 26, 2001 at the age of 93.

She is survived by her bereaved husband **Condino**; and children **Emilia Lagumen**, **Nilda Ubana** (†) **Fernando**, **Reynaldo**, **Lolita Igarta**, **Piameta Doria**, **Erlinda Guiriba** and **Bessie Tabin**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 3-A), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 3, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Our Beloved

SANTIAGO A. RONDARIS

President and Chairman of the Board
Times Transit Co., Inc.
St. James Hospital
Vigan, Ilocos Sur

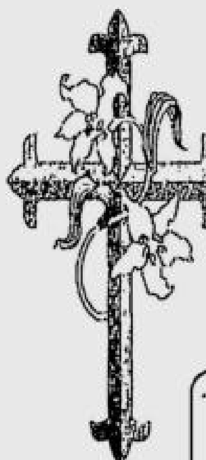
Peacefully joined our Creator
on Wednesday, June 27, 2001 at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife **Victorina**; children **Reynaldo** and **Virginia Mendoza, Virgilio Sr.** and **Ma. Luisa Rondaris**; grandchildren **Vernon Gerard, Vivian Charity, Vevey Rosario Mendoza, Juan** and **Maria Victoria Lopez, Vincent** and **Marie Gwendolen Rondaris, Virgilio Jr.** and **Myra Rondaris**; great grandchildren **Vincent Matthew, Carmela Ysabel** and **Jessica Marie**; his surviving brother **Domingo**; and sister **Rosalina**; together with his nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. James Hospital Chapel in Pantay Daya, Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Interment will be held on Wednesday, July 4, 2001, 8:00 AM at the family mausoleum after the 7:00 AM necrological services and Holy Mass at the Chapel.

LET US PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE
OF



+ FR. NEMESIO ANGUS, OFM

+ June 29, 2001
59 years of age

Date of Birth : December 19, 1942
Place of Birth : Jimenez, Misamis Occidental
Date of Simple Profession : June 12, 1969
Date of Solemn Profession : June 28, 1972
Date of Ordination : November 07, 1972

INTERMENT WILL BE ON
July 02, 2001 (Monday)
La Loma Cemetery
after the Funeral Mass at 10:00 AM
Santuario de San Pedro Bautista Parish Church
San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City

The Board of Trustees,
Administration, Faculty,
Students, Employees and Alumni of

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY
Angeles City

Regret to announce the demise of its Board of Trustees Member and Dean of Graduate School

DR. GUADALUPE A. CARBONELL

of Baguio City

and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Naguillan Road, Baguio City.

Interment will be on Monday, July 02, 2001 at the Baguio Memorial Park right after the Requiem Mass at 9:00 AM.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST
Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
Tels 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels 346-2643 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1256
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City
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Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
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Sucat, Parañaque City Tels 825-1296 825-1291
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#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
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264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
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East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City Telefax 724-4139 726-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels 852-8228 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
10-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels 749-3879 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City Tels 372-5084, 410-9286 / 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue, 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4836

CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of

ENGR. EFIGENIO M. MAGSOMBOL

Wife : Cloe Santiago-Magsombol
Daughter : Patricia Ann M. Saquilayan
Son-in-law : Ignacio V. Saquilayan
Granddaughters : Michelle Ann M. Saquilayan & Peggy Blanch M. Saquilayan

express our deepest appreciation to NOLI ME TANGERE LODGE NO. 148 F. & A.M., to all relatives and friends who condoled with us during their vigil, to those who made a big contribution in his life, those whose lives he has touched and to those who in so many ways assisted us during the wake.

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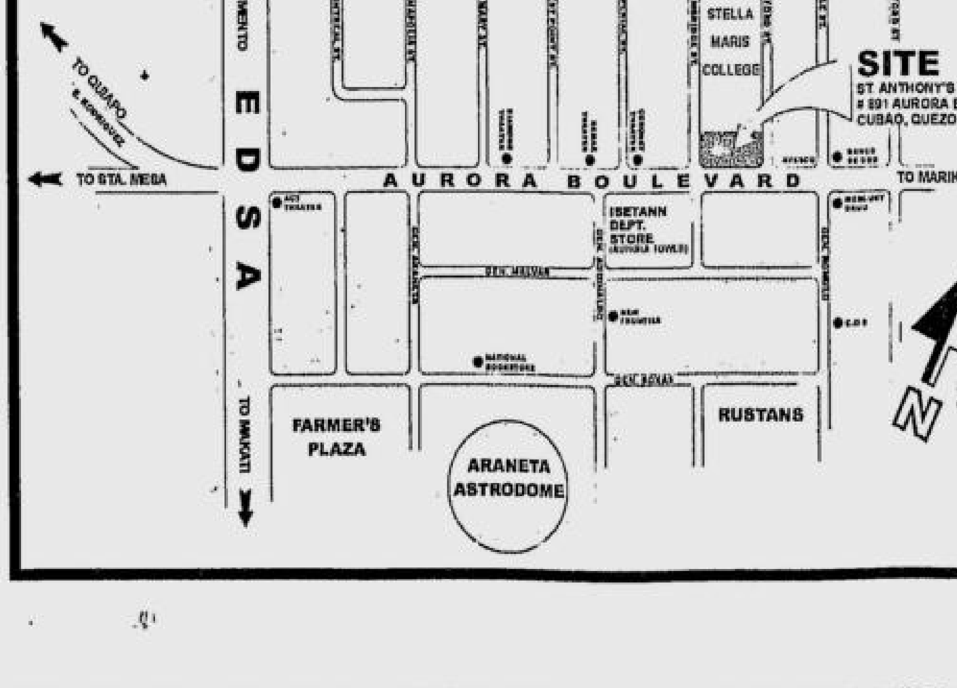

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Drug resistant strain compounds TB menace

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

IF you think we have had enough of tuberculosis—the fifth leading cause of death in the country—wait till you meet the brutal version of it, the multidrug resistant tuberculosis.

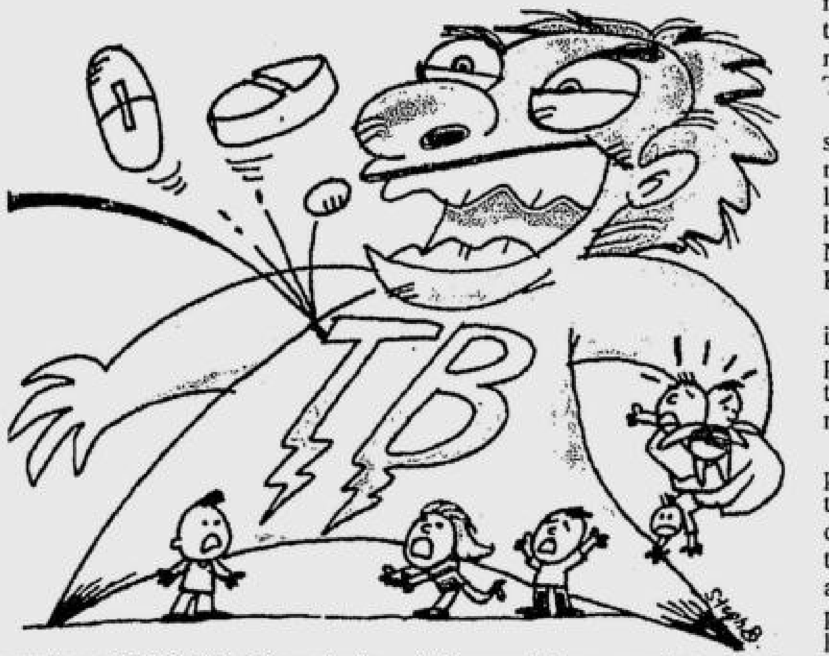
And we haven't come to grips with the TB problem in the first place. The Philippines was placed among the 23 top TB trouble spots in the world. We lose 75 Filipinos a day to TB.

The Philippine Health Situationer 2001 of the Council for Health and Development, however, indicated that as many as 132 Filipinos may be dying of TB every day, and that 39 percent of all Filipino children are afflicted with TB.

When a patient's TB does not respond to the traditional treatments, that's a sign that the drug-resistant TB has afflicted him.

Drug-resistant TB is resistant to at least one drug. But if it is resistant to two or more drugs, it becomes a multidrug resistant TB.

Human error may be hastening the development of this disease. A doctor's wrong prescription, the patient's noncompliance of a treatment regiment resulting in an ineffective control program, substandard or fake drugs, and interrupted treatment due to lack of drug supply are just a few of the reasons TB is evolving into its multidrug resistant cousin.



Dr. Eric Tayag, DOH director for infectious diseases, estimated the number of MDR-TB sufferers in the country at 28,000.

DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-course) was adopted by the DOH to ensure the uninterrupted drug supply, patient's compliance, quality drugs and zero medical errors in dealing with TB patients.

There are limitations, however, to DOTS.

Tayag said the DOTS entails the use of microscopes and some private institutions lack facilities and thus may just have to resort to chest X-rays.

Another problem is when physicians prescribe drugs. Tayag said doctors' prescriptions are influenced by a market already flooded with drugs.

The government's DOTS program began in 1996 and was intended for nationwide implementation. The DOH hopes that by the end of 2001, 100 percent of TB patients nationwide would go to government facilities to avail of DOTS. Tayag said he hopes the private sector would also adopt DOTS since the program ensures uninterrupted supply of medicines at a minimal cost to patients.

The government's budget for DOTS is P400 million.

"With DOTS, we are prioritizing the right form of medication since drug-resistant TB stems from medical error. If there's no DOTS there would be a proliferation of drug resistant and multidrug resistant TB," explained Tayag.

He added the government spends P1,600 per patient for six months and the prevention program lasts for two years. On the other hand, medication costs for each MDR-TB patient range from P200,000 to P250,000 a year.

The Lung Center of the Philippines, meanwhile, said that 60 percent of TB cases being referred to its doctors show some form of resistance to at least one drug.

Dr. Raul Villarete, head of LCP's public health and domiciliary, said that there has been a rising trend of difficult-to-treat TB cases. He said that MDR-TB patients could actually comprise 48 percent of TB patients in the Center. He said, however, that the LCP's figures might not be representative of the national statistic. He estimated that MDR-TB in the Philippines would only make up 20 percent of the TB population.

Villarete said the Lung Center has been the "dumping ground" of drug-resistant TB patients.

The LCP, on the average, looks after 13 to 15 patients under active treatment for MDR-TB. The treatment may last up to three years.

Villarete hopes new medicines would be discovered or developed before it's too late.

"(Treating) MDR-TB needs new medicines—stronger, more potent. We hope these will be readily available."

Fast facts on TB

What is Tuberculosis?

TB is a disease caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The bacteria can attack any part of your body, but they usually attack the lungs.

How is TB spread?

TB is spread when people who have active untreated TB germs in their lungs or throat cough, sneeze or speak, and send their germs into the air. People who breathe these germs into their lungs can become infected.

People who breathe in TB germs usually have had very close, day-to-day, contact with someone who has the disease. That's why most people get TB germs from someone they spend a lot of time with, like a family member, friend or close co-worker.

You're not likely to get TB from someone coughing in a public transport or in a restaurant. It is not spread through dishes, drinking glasses, sheets or clothing.

What is TB infection?

In most people who breathe in TB bacteria and become infected, the body is able to fight the bacteria to stop them from growing. The bacteria become inactive, but they remain alive in the body and can become active later. This is called TB infection.

People with TB infection have no symptoms, don't feel sick, can't spread TB to others, usually have a positive skin test reaction, and can develop TB disease later in life if they do not receive preventive therapy.

What is TB disease?

Tuberculosis disease is a serious illness caused by active TB germs. It is possible to get TB disease shortly after the germs enter the body if body defenses are weak. It is also possible, even after many years, for inactive TB germs to become active when body defenses are weakened. This may be due to aging, a serious illness, drug or alcohol abuse, or HIV infection (the virus that causes AIDS).

If people with TB disease do not take their medication, they can become seriously ill and may even die. But people with TB can be cured, if they have proper medical treatment and take their medication as prescribed.

What are the signs of TB?

Symptoms of TB depend on where in the body the TB bacteria are growing. TB bacteria usually grow in the lungs. TB in the lungs may cause a bad cough that lasts longer than two weeks, pain in the chest, coughing up blood or sputum (phlegm from deep inside the lungs). Other symptoms of TB disease are weakness or fatigue, weight loss, no appetite, chills, fever and sweating at night.

What are the tests for TB?

The tuberculin Mantoux PPD skin test shows if a person has been infected.

A chest X-ray is given if the Mantoux skin test shows that a person has been infected. The X-ray shows if any damage has been done to the lungs.

A sputum test shows if TB germs are in the thick liquid a person coughs up.

What is drug resistant TB?

Sometimes, TB germs are "resistant" to one or more of the TB medicines most often prescribed by doctors. When this happens, combinations of other TB medicines are given to the patient. Drug resistant TB can take longer to cure than regular TB, but most patients can be cured.

Drug resistant TB develops when a person with active TB stops taking their medicine too soon, or if they have not been given the right TB medicine. A person with untreated drug resistant TB of the lungs or throat can transmit these resistant germs.

Columbia University Department of Medical Informatics, Centers for Disease Control

THE COUNTRY ranks seventh in TB prevalence worldwide. WHO

New TB test detects infection accurately

PARIS—A fast, highly sensitive test for tuberculosis can give early indication of tuberculosis infection and end confusion that can be caused by the standard test for detecting the disease, The Lancet reported.

The conventional test, the tuberculin skin test (TST), can sometimes falsely indicate tuberculosis infection among people who in fact have been vaccinated against the disease or have picked up TB bacteria on their skin.

An Oxford University team has taken a new approach in tackling the problem.

Their prototype counts T-cells in the body's immune system that are triggered in response to a protein, ESAT-6, which is expressed by the tuberculosis bug.

These T-cells remain dormant when the tuberculosis vaccine is used. This is because the vaccine, BCG, is made of a strain that is a cousin of the tuberculosis bacterium, rather than the bacterium itself, and does not express ESAT-6.

The new test, ELISPOT, has been successfully used on 50 healthy individuals in London, The Lancet said.

It detected those who were latent carriers of the bug, and there were no "false positive" results.

ELISPOT "has the potential to be used to identify recently infected contacts and other individuals at high risk of tuberculosis infection in low prevalence countries," one of the researchers, Ajit Lalvani, told The Lancet.

Tuberculosis, a bacterial disease of the lungs once thought to have been conquered by the advent of antibiotics, is on the rise globally due to new drug-resistant strains, poor treatment regimens and accelerators such as the AIDS pandemic and crowded prisons.

One of the most worrisome tasks for health watchdogs is to identify people who are infected, and thus can pass on the disease in their sputum, but have yet to develop the symptoms.

BCG—Bacille Calmette Guerin—is the most widely used vaccination in the world.

Developed in the 1930s, it comprises a live, weakened strain of Mycobacterium bovis, which is related to the TB germ Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

It remains the only vaccination available today against TB but requires regular boosters to maintain immunity.

BCG is not used in some countries, such as the United States, where there is a low prevalence of TB and because of the risk of "false positives." *AFP*

Top TB countries, 1999

Country (ranked by burden)	Estimated new cases (thousands)	Country (ranked by burden)	Estimated new cases (thousands)
1 India	1,847	14 Brazil	118
2 China	1,300	15 UR Tanzania	112
3 Indonesia	590	16 Thailand	86
4 Nigeria	327	17 Mozambique	79
5 Bangladesh	306	18 Burma	76
6 Pakistan	269	19 Uganda	72
7 Philippines	234	20 Afghanistan	71
8 Ethiopia	228	21 Zimbabwe	65
9 South Africa	197	22 Cambodia	61
10 Russian Fed.	181	23 Peru	58
11 DR Congo	151	Total, high-burden countries	6,700
12 Vietnam	149	**Global total**	8,417
13 Kenya	123		

Source: World Health Organization

The case of the recurrent stroke

BY RAFAEL
R. CASTILLO MD

MEDICAL FILES

ALLAN S. is a 68-year-old Canadian engineer who has been based in the Philippines for the last 6 months. Before he retired four years ago, he worked as the chief operating officer of a big construction company based in Toronto. After his retirement, he could have chosen to live a leisurely lifestyle in his luxurious estate in Toronto, or his well-appointed vacation homes in Montreal or in the South of France. He deserved this, after working so hard for the last 45 years, which saw him rise in his career ladder from a rank-and-file worker to top executive of his company.

Allan's children tried to convince him to take it easy after he developed his first stroke a few months before he retired. He recovered dramatically after the stroke, being able to walk again in less than three months. He agreed to retire and complied with his children's plea for him to take it easy. But after several months, Allan convinced his children that a sedentary uninvolved lifestyle was not the kind of life that would make him happy. He got involved with a philanthropic foundation assisting various rural development projects in third-world countries. And for the last half year, he has been working in the Philippines.

While meeting with his co-workers in Manila, his companions noted that he suddenly became disoriented and restless. This was soon followed by slurring of speech, accompanied by progressive weakness of the right upper and lower extremities. He was then rushed to the Manila Doctors' Hospital and was promptly attended to by the hospital's top neurologist, Dr. Carlos Chua.

Clinical presentation

Based on Allan's clinical presentation, an admitting impression of a recurrent stroke was made. His initial computed tomography (CT) scan of the brain showed changes suggestive of the previous stroke but no changes to suggest a new stroke. This may occasionally happen when the CT scan is done early before acute or new changes can manifest in the scan. The importance, however, of doing a CT scan immediately is to rule out a brain hemorrhage due to rupture of a blood vessel. This confers a graver prognosis or outcome and the management would be quite different from an ischemic stroke, which is due to clogging of a brain artery by a blood clot. The CT scan was repeated the following day and this time, it showed changes indicative of a new stroke, on top of the previous one.

Anyone who has had a stroke always lives with the lingering fear of developing a second, and most likely, a more severe stroke. This danger becomes more real, especially in those with risk factors such as smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, obesity, heart failure and abnormal beating or rhythm of the heart called atrial fibrillation.

Based on a report from the World Health Organization and the International Society of Hypertension, stroke is now the second leading cause of death in the world and the leading cause of adult disability which would translate to hundreds of thousands of hours of lost productivity or man-hours at work.

Initial basis for diagnosis

The clinical symptoms, such as the ones presented by Allan, are the initial basis for diagnosis. A stroke generally presents as a sudden onset of neurological symptoms such as weakness or paralysis of a part of the body that would depend on which part of the brain has been damaged by the interrupted blood supply. When interruption of the blood supply occurs for prolonged periods, brain cells can die and may lead to a permanent neurologic deficit.

Each area of the brain, which is nourished by specific blood vessels, controls also a specific function of the body. For example, if the blood vessel serving the brain part, which controls the movement of the right upper and lower extremities, is blocked, the patient will have weakness or paralysis of the right legs and arms. If the speech center in the brain is damaged, the patient will be unable to speak (aphasia). The loss of function is greatest immediately following a stroke. Later on, some function may be recovered because while some brain cells die, other brain cells, which are only temporarily impaired because of the resulting brain swelling, may subsequently recover.

Interruption of the blood supply to the brain may occur for brief periods causing what is called as a transient ischemic attack (TIA). A TIA connotes a temporary disturbance in the blood supply to the brain and because the blood supply is restored early enough, brain tissue does not die, as it does in a stroke. A TIA may present exactly the same way as a stroke except that the necrologic deficits, either in the form of weakness or paralysis, usually resolves within 24 hours, or within two hours in the majority of cases. A TIA however is often a warning sign of a stroke. If the risk factors are not properly controlled and treated, a more severe stroke is likely to occur in the future.

In evaluating a stroke, the physician aims to determine whether the stroke was caused by a traveling blood clot (embolism), or a blockage of a blood vessel from atherosclerosis and blood clot formation (atherothrombosis).

Strokes due to embolism are generally caused by blood clots coming from the heart. Another stroke is likely to follow unless the underlying problem is corrected. Common heart disorders, which may cause this are irregular beating of the heart called atrial fibrillation, and problems in the heart valves which are like small doors separating the chambers of the heart. To determine this, additional tests such as an electrocardiogram or a Hotter monitoring which records the heartbeat continuously for 24 hours, may be requested. A 2-dimensional (2-D) echocardiography, which is an ultrasound evaluation of the heart, may also be requested to assess the valves or see if there is blood clot (mural thrombus) in the heart chambers.

Treatment strategy

Both doctor and patient aim hard to prevent a recurrent stroke. A major part of the treatment strategy is TLC. This may very well stand for tender loving care by the health care givers and family members to provide a supportive atmosphere to help the stroke patient recover whatever bodily functions he has lost. But a more important TLC is what the patient should institute himself. This is the therapeutic lifestyle changes which are well-documented to improve the outcome following a heart attack and stroke.

It is easier said than done, but stroke patients should really make an extra effort to do the following: exercising regularly; quitting smoking for those who smoke; reducing weight to attain ideal body weight and body mass index (BMI) based on one's height; maintaining a high-fiber, low-fat diet; making sure that one's blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol are within optimal limits; and avoiding excessive alcohol and stress.

Drug treatment also helps reduce the risk of developing a recurrent stroke. So-called blood thinners or antiplatelet drugs are given to prevent blood clot formation. Aspirin and dipyridamole are still the cheapest and most frequently used ones. Other drugs such as clopidogrel and ticlopidine are fast gaining popularity although their high cost remains a constraint. Cholesterol-lowering drugs, especially the statins, have also been shown by several big trials to also lower the risk of a repeat stroke even those with just average cholesterol levels.

Prevention of stroke

The latest landmark trial which has looked at the prevention of stroke in those with established narrowing of the blood vessels of the brain is the Progress, which is the acronym for the Perindopril Protection Against Recurrent Stroke Study. This was a large international trial involving 140 centers in nine countries, with world-renowned heart and brain specialists as investigators.

Prof. John Chalmers reported at the recently concluded European Society of Hypertension convention in Milan that when perindopril, together with a diuretic, was given to stroke patients for four years, one patient in every 14 was spared a second stroke. Other complications such as a heart attack or dementia (deterioration of brain function in the elderly) were also dramatically reduced. The result was even made more significant by the finding that even previous stroke patients with normal blood pressures benefited from the use of perindopril.

Recovering from a recurring stroke and preventing another one remain a big challenge to both the physician and the patient. Armed with his strong determination, Allan perseveres with his rehabilitation exercises daily. He has committed to do his part of the treatment, that is, instituting TLC and taking his pills religiously to prevent another recurrence of his stroke.

In the 6 months that he has stayed here, Allan has probably gained more Filipino friends than some would gain in a lifetime. Everyone cheers him on each day as he regains a new movement of his right arm and leg, or a slight improvement in his speech. Allan nurtures no doubt that he will be able to talk and walk again, so he may continue the lofty projects that he has started. He pledges to take all the necessary precautions his doctors advise him, but he is determined to finish all his projects here no matter what happens. The Philippines is already his second home. And for Allan, it's worth giving a part of his life to.

AIDS in RP: Hopes and possibilities

(Last of four parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WE conclude our journey into the reality of AIDS in the Philippines and the rest of the world by focusing on the ultimate issues—living with AIDS and facing it with strength and hope. An inevitable question revolves around the use of drugs. How effective are they? What about alternative cures? And by the way, since AIDS is caused by a virus, why haven't scientists been successful in producing a vaccine against it?

Let us first face the bad news. Unlike many viruses (such as smallpox, which has virtually been eradicated from the planet), the HIV virus is cleverly devious in its quest for survival. It is capable of easily and rapidly undergoing frequent mutation, which makes it resistant against any vaccine produced to specifically target it. In addition, different strains of HIV exist, and no single vaccine can account for all.

Thankfully, all this does not deter scientists from still another attempt at the vaccine. In fact, several candidate vaccines (aimed at inducing neutralizing antibodies against HIV and at protecting uninfected individuals who are exposed) are currently in clinical trials in several countries. But we have to realize that despite extensive research efforts, to this day there still does not exist an effective (and safe) vaccine.

Not hopeless

However, this does not mean that the medical community is helpless—far from it! In the past decades, dramatic strides have been made in the treatment of HIV infection and its complications. The most celebrated cases have been drugs, which directly combat the virus (antiretroviral drugs), and those which attempt to enhance the immune system (immunomodulators). Of course, treatment has also revolved around specific opportunistic infections and tumors. (Refer to the second part of this series for a review of these terms.)

However, production of these drugs is a story in itself. As US doctor-researcher Margaret Hamburg summarizes in an AIDS summary article, "Because of the complex life cycle of HIV, however, the successful development of antiviral and immune-enhancement therapies represents an enormous scientific challenge. Unlike most known disease-producing microorganisms, HIV infects the very cells that are intended to lead the immune system's attack against invaders. This makes it technically very hard to kill the virus without destroying the already threatened immune system." Furthermore, it has also been difficult to deal with several important reservoirs in the body for HIV without damaging them. Unless this vicious Catch-22 is resolved, prolonged and effective treatment for AIDS remains elusive.

That said, the main medical treatment for AIDS from the mid-1980s onward was the drug AZT (azidothymidine, also called zidovudine), which can slow HIV reproduction in the early stages. Thus, AZT can prolong survival, but it cannot cure the disease or reduce the occurrence of opportunistic infections. In the 1990s, researchers were able to develop a new class of drugs, which can interfere with HIV reproduction at a later stage (brand names Crixivan and Invirase). The logical next step is to combine these two classes of drugs, and several of them are now being tested. However, side effects are numerous and difficult. As for drugs against opportunistic infections, several have already been approved by the US FDA (and locally), such as ganciclovir against eye infections and pentamidine against pneumonia.

However, virtually all people with AIDS (PWAs) are plagued by spiraling costs—100 capsules of AZT, for example, cost around P5,000. Most government health statistics estimate that the cost of medicine and testing for PWAs can easily reach P400,000 a year. In fact, there has long been a worldwide clamor for multinational pharmaceutical companies to make these drugs affordable. The most visible triumph along these lines occurred just this April, when South African PWAs won their suit against four drug giants, paving the way for less expensive treatment. On the local front, bringing down the cost of medicine is one of the demands of Pro-Gay, the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines, among others, which has petitioned the government and organized pickets against multinational drug companies to rally people to their cause.

Clinical trial

How about alternative cures? Though some patients have testified to the effectiveness of some therapies, to date no alternative form of treatment has been approved by international governments and health ministries. Clinical trials of some of these are ongoing, however. One recommendation I have found particularly interesting is the claim of some American and Japanese scientists that aloe vera may help combat AIDS because of its alleged antibacterial and antiviral properties. Personally, I am hopeful that aloe vera may be vindicated, partly because it is readily available in our country. However, the most recent updates I have chanced upon are all still cautious—optimistically cautious, but cautious nonetheless.

As we have noted, clinical trials of both drug and alternative cures are being done around the world. In fact, I was impressed to discover that our country is doing its share in this end. For instance, last year, the DOH announced that A-viral, a long-discarded drug, which underwent reformulation, might eventually prove effective. As a member of the community of nations, the Philippines had indicated readiness to participate in clinical trials for this, in collaboration with West African scientists and a Norwegian pharmaceutical company.

We are not limiting ourselves to standard drug treatments. For instance, local studies are now being conducted on coconut oil to determine if it can inhibit or delay the spread of HIV. Though at this point, results are still inconclusive, I take pride at these efforts, and believe that it is worth discussing them here.

In 1999, the Philippine Coconut Research and Development Foundation, the San Lazaro Hospital and United Laboratories initiated the first local testing on the potential of coconut oil to combat HIV/AIDS. The experiment involved 15 San Lazaro patients in the early stages of HIV, with the aim of discovering if monolaurin (a derivative of lauric acid in coconut oil) would increase their CD4+ cell count and lower the amount of virus in their blood. Recall that CD4+ cells are the ones, which help the human immune system fight infection, thus an increase in these cells may prolong the lives of PWAs.

The theory behind using coconut oil is ingenious. It has long been known that HIV has a fatty envelope, and monolaurin is supposed to be able to penetrate and disrupt the membrane coating of this envelope quickly when ingested. Results in this case are said to be promising, but more research is needed before definite conclusions can be reached.

Another interesting application of lauric acid is its presence in sodium lauryl sulfate, a popular microbe killer. Discover Magazine interviewed a group of Canadian scientists who developed what they called an "invisible condom." A microbial gel to prevent HIV, this is supposed to block viruses causing AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. This substance has two main components—polymer gel, and you guessed it—sodium lauryl sulfate. (Aside from the hoped-for medical benefits of the ubiquitous coconut oil, think about the economic rewards we can garner if indeed these trials prove effective.)

Ultimately, one of the best things we can do for PWAs and ourselves is to insist on basic human dignity and respect. The social and ethical dimensions of dealing with HIV/AIDS have been extensively reported—and in many instances, morbidly sensationalized—that I have chosen not to discuss them again here. Instead I prefer to laud commendable efforts, such as the designation of December 1 as World AIDS Day, where a plethora of international efforts highlights worldwide concern for this cause.

HIV/AIDS info

Resources on HIV/AIDS abound, but some are simply outstanding. Though I have read several scientific tracts on this topic, my favorite book remains "Beyond Love." Best known for his Calcutta memoirs in "City of Joy," here award-winning journalist Dominique La Pierre has penned a moving chronicle of the travails and triumphs of those afflicted with, touched by, and fighting against "the greatest plague of the century." For those whose main source of information has become the Internet, I recommend the US-based but worldwide-linked site www.aids.org. For local updates, turn to www.doh.gov.ph, which has links to several other local resources.

AIDS education is disseminated not just on print and electronic media, but on other venues as well. I was part of the audience moved by the world-acclaimed stage play "Rent," which performed to packed crowds in the Music Museum last year. Sensitive, poignant and realistic, "Rent" reveals that despite the scourge of this disease, joy—in music, camaraderie and in life itself—is still very much possible.

We cannot close our eyes, minds and hearts to this reality. (When I learned that Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, renowned for their care for the outcasts in Calcutta, were establishing AIDS hospices as well, I reflected on their prescience. For haven't PWAs become the literal and metaphorical "untouchables" of the late 20th century?) AIDS does not affect only certain sectors of our society, for what John Donne reiterated long ago still rings true. No man (or woman) is an island, and what affects a fellow human being affects me as well. AIDS touched me—albeit tangentially—15 years ago, and it was in the quiet dignified response of my friend—"Not cancer, but AIDS" that I first glimpsed how we human beings can ultimately defeat this disease. By not hiding from the truth, by not wallowing in self-pity or hatred, and by facing this disease head-on, with courage and love, my friend and her family have taught us how to live with AIDS. All of us can do no less.

RECURRENT UTI

What's sex got to do with it

URINARY tract infection (UTI) is one of the most common infections afflicting men and women. Despite its ubiquity, UTI is usually ignored because it sometimes disappears on its own. When it recurs, however, the severity of the symptoms drives the patient to their doctor.

Dr. Clayton Blas, a urologist at the Manila Doctors Hospital and the Healthway Medical Clinics, confirmed the majority of referred cases of UTI are the recurrent type. He said, "The most common cause of UTI (in 85 percent of cases) is the *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) bacteria, which comes from the patient's own bowel flora. Patients suffer, complaining of dysuria, which is a stinging and burning pain experienced during voiding. And this is accompanied by the frequent, urgent need to urinate." These symptoms certainly affect one's quality of life and mobility.

What's sex got to do with it?

Dr. Blas notes that females are more prone to UTI than men. Studies indicate that women are 30 times at a greater risk than men and that 40 percent of adult women will experience it during their lifetime. Dr. Blas explained that the increased predisposition is caused by the female's anatomy and by a biologic defect. He said, "Women are more likely to develop UTI because their urethra is short, around 2 cm. In men, the urethra is much longer at 12 cm. Another anatomic factor is the close location of this 'peehole' to the vagina and the anus. This may be compounded by a related biologic defect permitting E.coli bacteria from the rectal canal to be transferred to the vaginal canal and to proliferate there." He explained: "Many women clean themselves in the direction from the anus up toward the vagina and the urethra. That facilitates the infection." He advised it would be best for women to clean up in the opposite direction from the urethra down toward the anus.

Anatomic proximity may also explain why urinary tract reinfections are closely associated with sexual intercourse. The intimate contact and concurrent friction during sex may also promote the transfer of the bacteria from the different orifices.

Dr. Blas also spoke of UTI being common among peri- and post-menopausal women because of associated hormonal changes, causing depleting levels of Lactobacilli, which serves as the natural defense against bacteria like E. coli. This leads to a less acidic vaginal flora again predisposing to UTI.

What can patients and doctors do?

Dr. Blas cited the "Clinical Practice Guidelines" of the Primary Task Force on UTI Management developed by the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, where he was a member of the expert panel representing the Philippine Urological Association. Basic preventive measures are still paramount, and these include drinking enough water (adequate hydration), regular urination and proper hygiene practices. Antibiotic therapy with nitrofurantoin, cotrimoxazoles or fluoroquinolones is still the mainstay. The most effective form of therapy for recurrent UTI is continuous low dosage antibiotic prophylaxis if intermittent therapy or therapy after intercourse proves to be impractical or ineffective.

A newer treatment option is oral "biologic response modification," or immunostimulation. Evidence-based researches have shown that immunostimulation is a promising treatment option. Dr. Blas explained, "Using 18 strains of E. coli Lyophilized Bacterial Extract, the medication works like a vaccine. Attenuated lyophilized bacterial fragments are introduced, which stimulate the person's immune system. When the real bacteria finally attacks, the body is able to recognize and neutralize infections readily before it spreads." While the antibiotics treat the source of infection, this newer therapy works by empowering the host. It is also as easily dispensed since it comes in capsule forms.

So, for those with urinary symptoms, it is advisable to consult the physician promptly! Avoid the painful complications recurrent UTI inflict on the patient and the pocket.

For more information about recurrent UTI and Immunostimulation, please call 845-7328 or 845-7469.

Legarda gets UN environment award

SEN. LOREN Legarda has just added another feather to her cap. She received the prestigious Global 500 Roll of Honor for Environmental Achievement Award from the United Nations Environment Program (Unep) for her outstanding contributions to the protection of the environment. She now has the distinction of being the first Filipino to achieve this honor.

Legarda was cited by Unep for her staunch advocacy of environmental issues, particularly those pertaining to forest and marine resources. As a broadcast journalist for 20 years, she championed the cause for a healthier ecology by heightening public awareness of environmental problems through her television programs.

Innovative ER card soon to be launched

A NEWLY formed medical services firm will soon launch innovative health products and services, initially a card for emergency room services.

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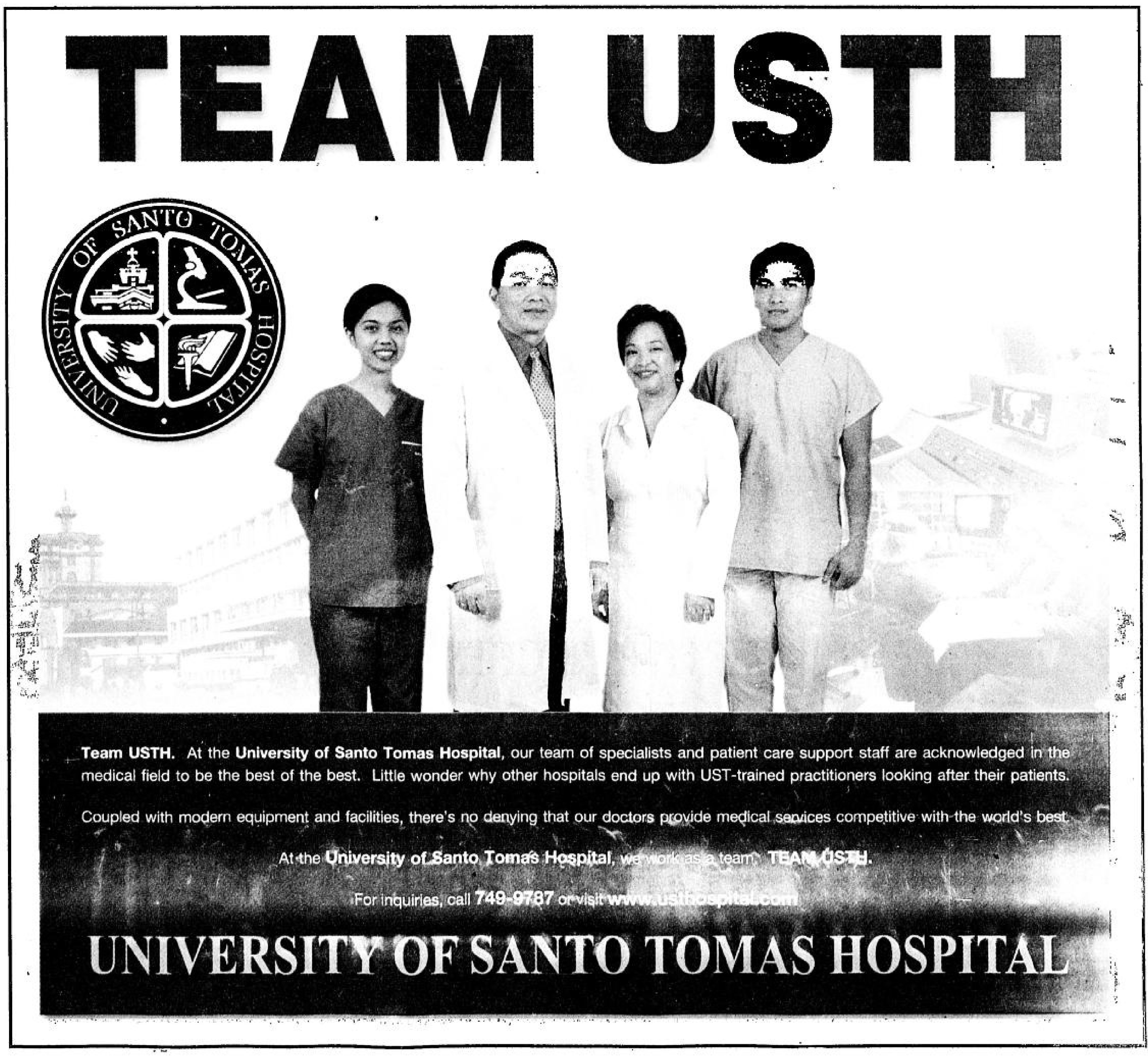
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WG&A to undergo quasi-reorganization

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. (WG&A) president Endika Aboitiz said the company will apply with the Securities and Exchange Commission for a quasi-reorganization. As a result, its deficit of P647 million as of Dec. 31, 2000 will be wiped out by applying against additional paid-in surplus of P3.9 billion.

Aboitiz said the integration in 1996 of William Lines Inc., Carlos A. Gothong Lines Inc. and Aboitiz Shipping Corporation was envisioned to elevate the company from the destructive competitive environment prevailing in the sector. However, the integration proved to be more difficult than what was anticipated. In 1997 and 1998, WG&A booked "non-recurring merger and integration costs" amounting to P1.3 billion.

"With a new management team at the helm, the problems that emerged after the integration have been surpassed. The year 1999 marked its first year of profitability. WG&A posted a net profit before tax of P196 million from revenues of P4.9 billion," Aboitiz said.

"For 2000, WG&A made P5.6 billion in revenues, up 13 percent over the previous year. The average hike of 10.2 percent for passage rate improved earnings from P2.3 billion to P2.6 billion even as the level of passengers stayed practically the same at 3.7 million. Cargo operations, meanwhile, registered P3.1 billion of revenue from P2.7 billion the year before, owing to the 9.7-percent average increase in freight rates and 2-percent growth in volume," he said.

WG&A remains the leader in the domestic shipping industry, cornering 54 percent of the passage market and 41 percent of the freight business.

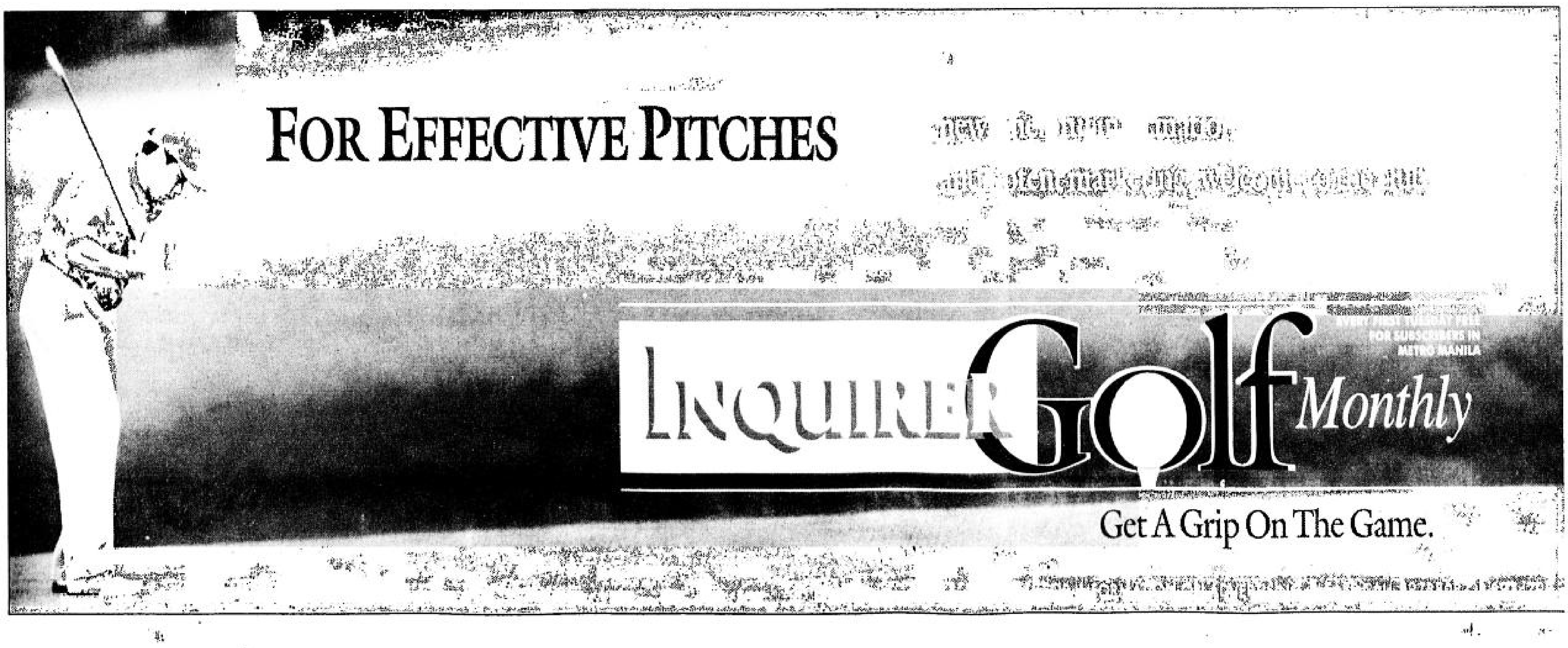
Despite the growth in revenues, however, WG&A's operating and general expenses ballooned to P5.5 billion in 2000 from P4.7 billion the previous year. The major factors that led to the 17-percent increase in expenses were the 65-percent increase in fuel cost, weaker Philippine peso, and a huge investment in human resources development and systems upgrade, which the company believes are essential to its future competitiveness.

The resulting income from operations in 2000 was P145 million. The rationalization of WG&A routing schedule was able to identify vessels, which were considered inefficient and not profitable. The management decided to lay up these vessels and recognized a write-down of its values by P512 million. As a result of the write-down, WG&A posted a net loss after tax of P232 million.

Aboitiz said "WG&A had a very good performance during the first quarter of 2001. The company recorded net revenues of P1.6 billion for the first quarter of 2001, with an improvement of 25 percent compared with the same period last year. The improved performance is attributed to the increase in cargo handled during the period. Freight operations contributed P880 million, up by 31 percent compared with 1999, with volume growth of 7 percent. Passage business, on the other hand, increased its revenues to P700 million from P590 million. Income from operations in the first quarter of the year is P188 million, higher by 240 percent compared with budget and up by P141 million or 29 percent higher compared with the same period last year."

DAVIS CUP ASIA WINNERS

Johnny Arcilla and Rolando Ruel, winners of the recent Davis Cup Asia competition, are shown above holding the latest racquets from Prince. Prince, maker of high-performance and quality racquets, launches its latest models under the most recent innovation called Triple Threat. The new models are Bandit, Rebel, and Vendetta. Prince has been supportive of local tennis players, particularly Johnny and Ruel. Prince racquets and accessories are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Sports Resources Inc., and are now available at Toby's Sports Hobbies, Chris Sports Plaza, Royal Sporting Goods, Planet Sports, Olympic Village, JB Sport, Sports House and other leading sporting good stores, pro shops, specialty stores and department stores. Sports Resources can be contacted at 671-9765 and 671-1540.



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Saturday SPECI

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Why John Travolta endures

BY MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK—F. Scott Fitzgerald once declared that there were no second acts in American lives. One wonders what he would have made of one former Sweathog.

Disco cool

In more than 25 years, John Travolta has gone from disco cool to seriously uncool, from hit-man chic to sci-fi cheese. He's had more booms and busts than a week on the Nasdaq.

"The Fitzgerald line is so negated by our time," says film producer Joel Silver, whose credits include the "Lethal Weapon" "Predator," "The Matrix" and the "Die Hard" series. "We're looking at people with fifth and sixth acts. John is one of those."

And that's fine by John.

"Look, if I'm one of the few people that are ever looked at as

WHY/p.C2

TRAVOLTA. Wouldn't trade his career for anybody else's.

Treat of the Week

Avocado Crab Ensemble

3 pcs Romaine lettuce (approximately 100 g.), coarsely shredded
1/8 cup chopped wansoy
1 large avocado, peeled and sliced thinly
4 pcs crab sticks, shredded
1/2 cup chopped almonds

Dressing:
1 170 g. can NESTLÉ CREAM
2-3 tbsps. lemon juice
1 tbsp. chopped onions
1/4 cup NESTLÉ MAGNOLIA Fresh Milk
1/2 tsp. sesame oil

Toss Romaine lettuce with chopped wansoy in a salad bowl until very well blended. Arrange on a platter. Arrange avocado slices and shredded crab sticks on top of lettuce and sprinkle with almonds. Set aside Combine all ingredients for the dressing in a bowl. Serve with prepared salad.
Serves: 4 - 6

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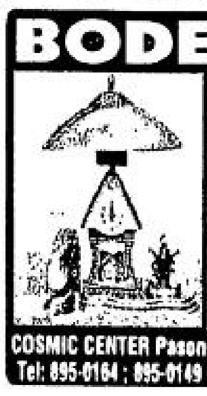

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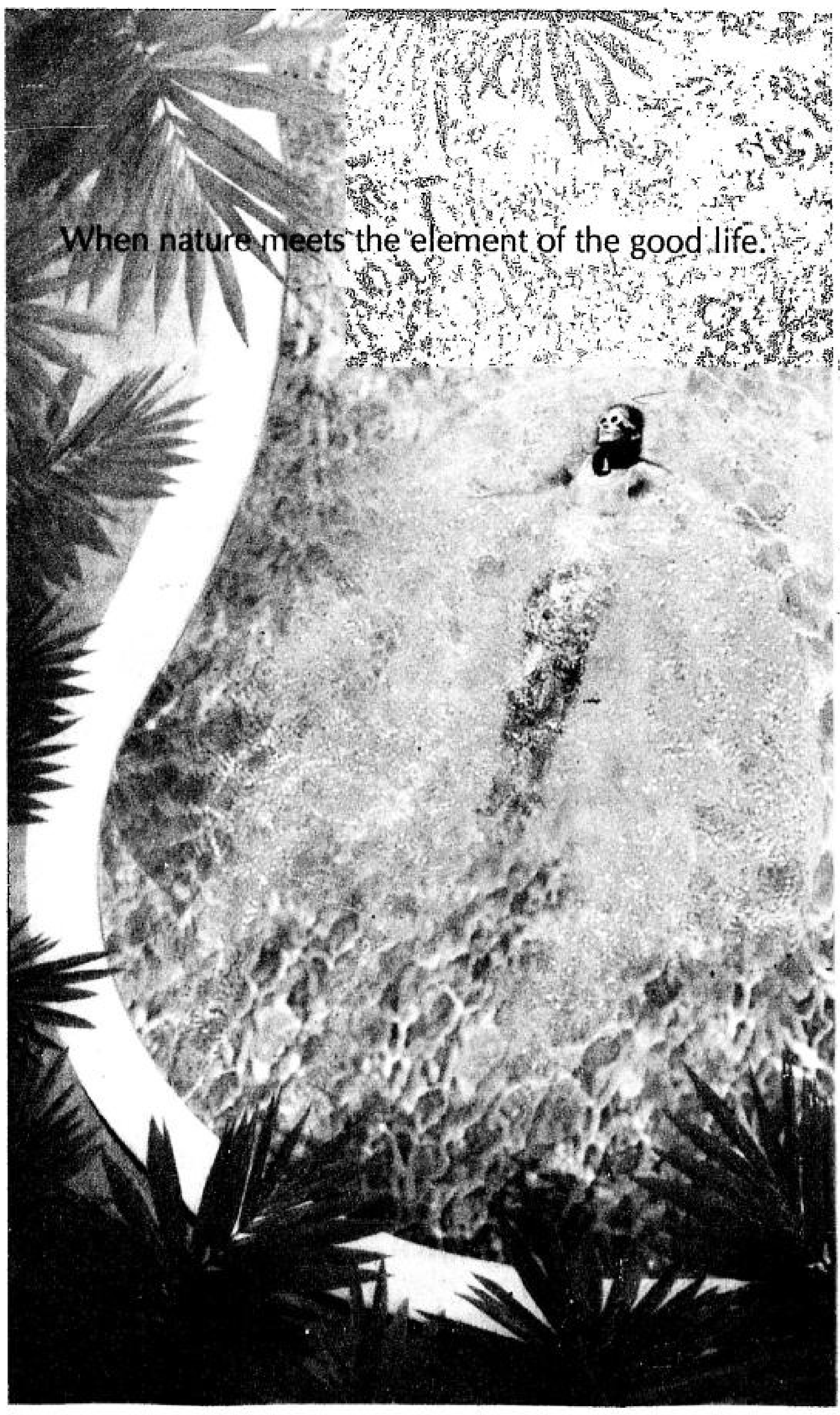

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Steven Soderbergh goes from success to failure, to triumph

His ability to transform Julia Roberts into a sassy yet flawed heroine won the respect of his peers in Hollywood

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN "Erin Brockovich" hit it big last year, local film buffs got interested in its relatively unknown director, Steven Soderbergh. Last month, when his other film, "Traffic," finally showed in town, film lovers got really excited about Soderbergh.

Rare occurrence

They knew, of course, that he had been nominated as best director for *both* "Erin Brockovich" and "Traffic," a rare occurrence in the Academy Awards, so they sensed that he was an outstanding talent. But it took finally seeing "Traffic" for them to realize just *how* gifted he was, and how deserving of their interest and attention.

People who want to know more about how Soderbergh developed his unique touch in filmmaking start in 1989, when at only 26 years of age, he made viewers sit up and take notice of his talent with the unusual and unsetting "sex, lies & videotape," which won prizes at the prestigious Cannes filmfest, plus a writing nomination at the Oscars.

Brilliant start

After such a brilliant start, film buffs looked forward to Soderbergh's follow-up film. However, when "Kafka" arrived, they found it too enigmatic and diffuse to engage them. "King of the Hill" fared better, but it also paled in comparison to "sex, lies & videotape."

Was Soderbergh doomed to being unfavorably judged by his trailblazing film debut? For some more years, and films ("Grays Anatomy," "Schizopolis" and "Underneath"), it all too depressingly looked that way.

Happily, Soderbergh started to dig himself out of his deepening hole of unfulfilled expectations with "Out of Sight," starring Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney, and "The Limey."

But Soderbergh really recovered his rhythm with "Erin Brockovich." His ability to transform superstar Julia Roberts into a sassy, spirited yet flawed heroine of the masses won the respect and admiration of his peers in Hollywood.

Drug problem

And "Traffic" has won them over completely with its tough, brilliant and many-pronged view of the huge drug problem that threatens to bring some big, powerful countries to their knees.

Looking back on his 12-year odyssey from success to failure, to triumph, Soderbergh admits that his smashing debut as filmmaker dazzled him so much that he wasn't able to make judicious decisions which proffered film projects to accept next.

He also recalls that, with his experimental films that viewers couldn't relate to all that much, he had too firm a grip on the material and on the filmmaking process.

SODERBERGH shooting "Traffic."

With "Erin Brockovich," he learned to relax his hold on the production, to step back, play things more for real, and not be as conscious of style as he used to be.

Decision

His decision to keep the movie simple and focused on Roberts' character enabled viewers to achieve a direct connection with the movie's protagonist, and the film clicked in a big way.

"Traffic" was a completely different undertaking. Since it sought to show how extensively the drug trade had invaded and infested the warp and woof of American and Mexican society, the script couldn't tell just one, focused story.

It had to literally jump around, following the diverse, unexpected conjunctions of the many people involved in the trade—*plus* all of the layers of officials and agents charged with the seemingly impossible task of catching the drug dealers.

Storytelling skills

The result is a jackrabbit kind of storytelling, with the film telling *three* different stories, in frequent alternation. The danger, of course, was that viewers would get swamped by all those closely edited scenes, and fail to keep up with what was going on. So, Soderbergh had his work cut out for him to make sure that his storytelling skills were working at their very best. Amazingly, he succeeded.

Let us take shelter in God's love

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW can God come to this planet? How can He help us? Communicate directly with us? Atheists always pose questions trying to question the abilities of the Supreme Lord. They try to use their intelligence to understand the unlimited and inconceivable nature of the Supreme Being. In this way, they fail to appreciate God.

Theories

It is very funny how in this world, jokes are constantly made about how it is impossible for husbands to understand their wives. It is a fact that most men cannot comprehend feminine behavior. And yet, atheistic professors who cannot even understand their wives' behavior go off to universities, lecturing and debating over their theories on the nature of the Supreme Being.

Although limited in their mental ability and knowledge, they make statements about God as if they were in the position to do so. In other words, they are judging God as if they were superior to Him.

The reality is that we can't figure God out. If we could, we would be dominating Him. If we say that God is limited in some way, then we reject the idea of God as being the Supreme.

In the world today, there is so much despair and hopelessness because people have lost faith in the Supreme. They don't accept that there is God who is in full control of events. They don't believe that there is a loving Lord who is providing for our needs and who is watching over us.

Drowning man

They don't have faith in God because they have put their faith in their spouse, relatives, friends and associates. They have put their faith in the banks, stock markets and financial "securities" that are like floating straws, utterly useless to a drowning man.

People are stressed out because they have no faith in God. Consequently, they cannot rest in the Lord's protection. If a child has no faith in his mother's protection, he cannot adequately rest or sleep. He will always be worried that his life is in great danger and that his mother will not be able to help him. Similarly, people are worried about their existence and have forgotten about and rejected God.

Faith is a requirement to have peace and rest. We cannot experience refuge or shelter without faith in the Supreme. The reality is that the Supreme Lord is always able to adjust any situation according to the individual's requirement, to help him out.

No enemy

God doesn't want to harm anyone. In His eyes, there is no devil or enemy. In the eyes of God, everyone is His child.

The Supreme Father gives what a person needs to bring that individual closer to Him. It may be an accident that will be a sudden awakening, or a gentle message that will melt the heart. It may appear like a thunderbolt to rouse us from our deep sleep and ignorance, or it may be like the touch of a flower across the cheek to call our attention to the reality of our existence. Whatever the form, the lesson is delivered out of love. The Supreme Being is motivated only by love.

In this age of confusion, let us take shelter in God's love. Let us have faith in His inconceivable potencies and His ability to take care of us. Let us surrender our life to Him and rest in His great love.

Do not be atheists but become devotees who have full faith and love in the Supreme Being. In this way, we will become truly peaceful and happy.

Why John Travolta endures

(From page C1)

having a career with acts or various comebacks, it denotes a more exciting career. I really wouldn't trade mine for anybody's," Travolta says. "I'm healthy enough and aware enough to appreciate that it's unusual."

Last year, he lost with "Lucky Numbers" and then crashed with "Battlefield Earth," which tied the record for the most Golden Raspberry Awards. (It got seven Razzies—for worst movie, actor, screen couple, supporting actor, supporting actress, director and screenplay.)

High-tech thriller

This month, he returns with "Swordfish," a high-tech thriller in which he stars as a cool megalomaniac who enlists a computer hacker to steal massive amounts of federal money.

Travolta, who despite last year's flops is still getting about $20 million for this film, was offered either the bad-guy or the good-guy role. He chose the bad. (The good went to Hugh Jackman.)

Does Travolta need "Swordfish" to score big? And if it's a success, will it be spun into another comeback tale?

No. And yes, maybe, he says.

"There's never a time that I don't feel that there's some potential spin."

Travolta's been dealing with it ever since Act I, when he strutted though the TV series "Welcome Back, Kotter" and films "Saturday Night Fever," "Grease" and "Urban Cowboy."

With his cleft chin and machismo, he became the It Boy of the early 1980s. As if to cap his accession, Britain's Princess Diana requested a dance during a visit to the United States.

Act II brought "Staying Alive," "Perfect," "The Dumb Waiter" and finally the lucrative but humiliating "Look Who's Talking" trilogy.

Maverick director

Then maverick director Quentin Tarantino, who had long idolized Travolta, offered him the role of the hip, hamburger-munching killer in "Pulp Fiction." The film won the actor an Academy Award nomination—and a media characterization of a comeback.

"I didn't welcome the spin at first and then Quentin Tarantino said, 'They're excited, John! They want you to have this as a comeback. So go with it. Stop fighting it,'" says Travolta. "And I dropped it."

When Act III got into high gear, it seemed Travolta could do no wrong: "Get Shorty," "Broken Arrow," "Face/Off," "Phenomenon" and "Michael" were all greeted warmly by fans.

"It has something to do with growing up on the screen and it's also about losing and getting it back. I think people are moved by that—they wanted to see him again," Silver says.

A gradual descent seemed to begin in 1998 with "Mad City," "Primary Colors," "The Thin Red Line," "A Civil Action" and "The General's Daughter" all getting mixed reviews.

Then came "Battlefield Earth."

Travolta produced and starred as a leather-clad giant alien with dreadlocks and huge hands in the screen adaptation of Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's novel.

Big stars have always delivered at least one colossal turkey. Sylvester Stallone's was "Judge Dredd" and Kevin Costner gave us "Waterworld." But Travolta won't back down.

Ancillary deals

Though even Silver calls it "goofy," "ludicrous" and "a giant error in judgment," Travolta insists the film is "nearing the $100 million mark" thanks to its ancillary deals—video, overseas sales, merchandizing.

"Look, to this day he doesn't know how silly the movie is," Silver says.

Part of Travolta's desire to make "Battlefield Earth" was his allegiance to Scientology, the church he credits with keeping him sane at the pinnacle of Act I.

"I became what was so-called the biggest star in the world during the height of the cocaine era. The height! I didn't know anybody who wasn't on it," he says. "OK, maybe I knew one other person . . ." *AP*

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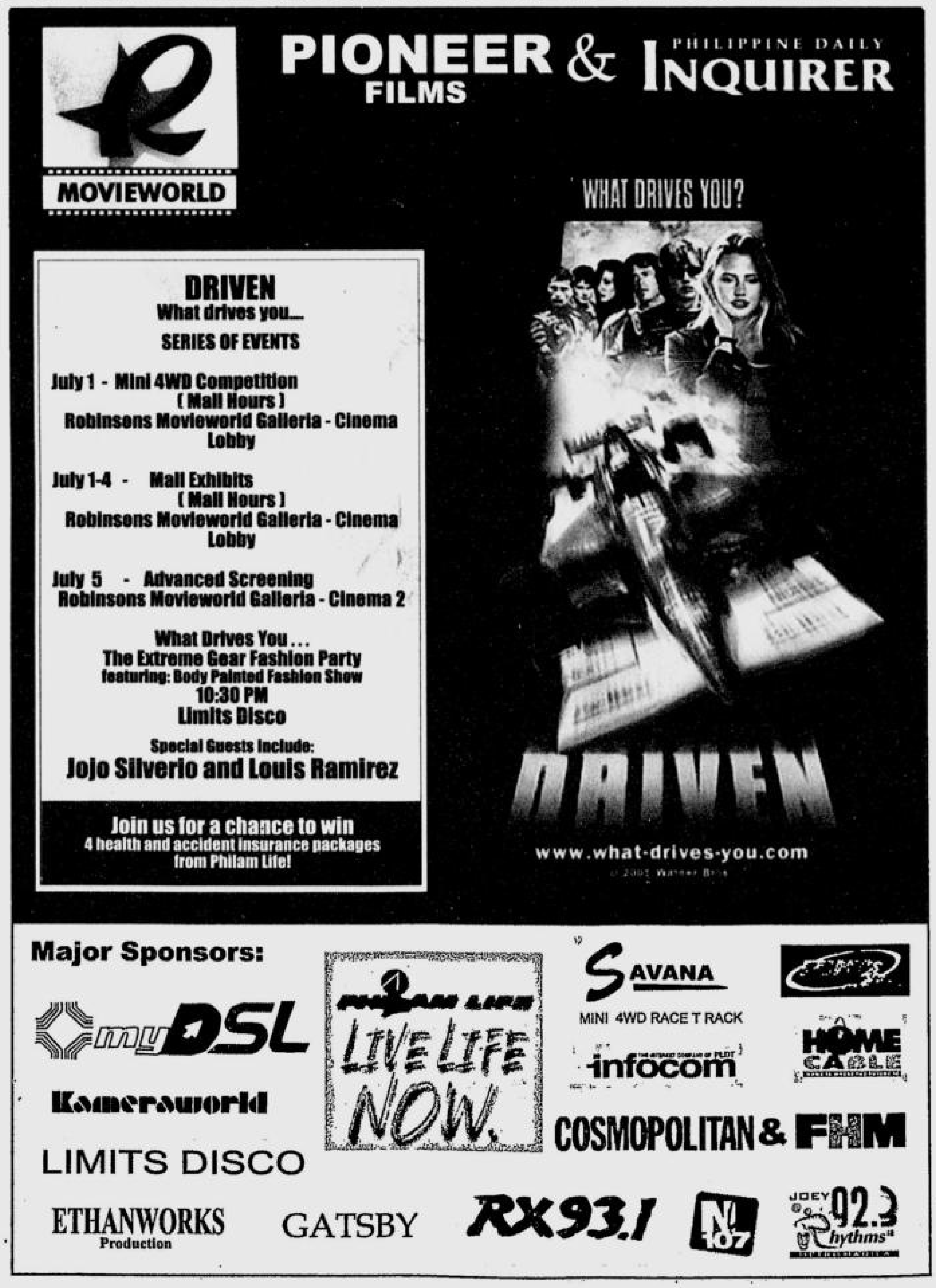

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By Gloria P. Sicam

"LITTLE MERMAID"CAST. "Shiny and new."

REHEARSALS always start with a prayer—Trumpets wouldn't be Trumpets if we didn't. Then funky music blasts from a stereo as our choreographer, James Laforteza takes us through our daily warm-ups and jazz steps ("Okay, *pas de bourree*, By fours! From the corner!"). We all make a beeline for the water station (thankfully, one of our sponsors is a mineral water company), and just as we've gulped down much-needed water, our director, Jaime del Mundo gives his trademark "uhm" and we know it's time for blocking.

Brisk pace

So the story goes for "Little Mermaid" rehearsals, back after a successful run last year. I am once more part of the chorus as a schizophrenic wave, human and fish, but I am in the minority as part of the old cast as 80 percent of the cast are all shiny and new and "very enthusiastic!" says producer/associate director, Audie Gemora. The rehearsals have been quite a blast, and because the new cast is eager to learn, we are moving at quite a brisk pace.

We have Katrina Villarante, playing the third Jewel (she is doing professional theater for the first time, by the way) who jumps fearlessly into people's arms if the choreography calls for it. There's Eladio Pamaran as Calamari, who blasts "Hurry Up, Hurry Up" with such operatic flair, the fish really do *hurry up*. There's Tonipet Gaba, his alternate, who always has his eyebrows furrowed in concentration, so determined is he to remember everything!

There's KC Concepcion, who is unaffected by the fame of her parents and is completely open to learning the different facets of Princess Sapphire and bonding with the cast. We also have Repertory Philippines' "favorite ingenue," Cathy Azanza, also playing Princess Sapphire, with whom I must laugh my heart out with on cue. And of course, we have a chorus of men and women (a Canadian and Russian among them, I might add), most of whom dance so well I sometimes forget to rehearse because I just love watching them.

Veterans

And the other "Mermaid" veterans are still there. Carol Banawa and Dianne de la Fuente are still playing Jewel. ("Because we really missed doing it!" they gush) Noel Rayos and Jeff Arcilla are still the dashing princes. (I have heard new girls in the chorus sigh, *"Ang ganda ng boses nila*!") Sheila Francisco and Lynn Sherman are back as the evil villainness Crustacea. Carlo Orosa is the wise Nicodemus. And the irrepressible Freddie Santos is once again King Argo. The rehearsals have both been a trip down memory lane ("Hey, remember last year, when I slipped during this part . . . hey, remember when my wave broke . . .?") and a challenging journey ("Okay, how do I make this new again . . . okay, how do I re-learn this blocking?").

Last Tuesday, Trumpets held a press conference to announce the revival of "Little Mermaid." The press was treated to songs from the musical (in spite of major microphone problems in the beginning, the songs were still beautifully rendered) —"You Plus Me," "Quandary," "He Brought Me to You," "You Can't Cross Crustacea" (Sheila's belting brought the house down here) and a wonderfully lively and noisy "Silent Song," sung and *danced* by the male chorus and the Prince (Noel Rayos).

That pretty much ended the program with the bang. There was a slight disappointment that KC Concepcion wasn't there for the press to throw questions at, but there were a lot of other people to interview and take note of.

Dianne de la Fuente, for example, has turned out to be quite a lady—very poised and lovely. We learned that she's juggling quite a schedule —aside from "Mermaid" rehearsals, she's in several TV shows *and* she's a full-time Communication Arts major at Angelicum. But in spite of all of that, she's still very excited to fly onstage again, and sing her heart out as Jewel. And she feels she's had a little more experience emotionally from the past year to give Jewel even more depth.

Shows

Carol Banawa, we've found out, has done a lot after and because of "Mermaid" last year. Had and will still have shows abroad, has been noticed by ABS and given several TV shows and yet, in spite of all this, she still doesn't feel like a star. "I'm just the same Carol." She says, and punches me playfully on the arm.

What's the song she would *really* like to sing that she doesn't get to sing in the play? "Ah, *yung song ng* Princess, *yung* "A Gift From the Sea" . . . *sabi ko nga*, princess *na lang ako* this year . . . *pero . . . ah . . . maliit daw ako, e. Pero hindi na ako yung pinakamaliit na* mermaid!"

She's referring to Katrina, the third mermaid, whose petite frame prompted the press to ask, "How old are you?" She's 18. Yes, of working age.

We also talked to Audie Gemora, who shared that the script has been worked on all year, and aims to hit a two hour-30 minute mark, as compared to the three hours "Mermaid" ran last year. He also talked about the challenge of being both producer and associate director — he's got to make sure that the play is both artistic and something that the audience will want to watch.

Sometimes, he says, it's hard to please everyone, there's always someone who will criticize. But, he does his best. As much as he admits he misses performing, he says that the high he gets from standing in the lobby and seeing the faces of the people who have just watched a show he's put up is even better than the high he gets from performing. Perhaps, we suggested, your path is truly a different one from performing? "It looks that way." Audie says with a smile.

The Little Mermaid opens August 3 and runs until the first week of September at Meralco Theater.

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Who is the on-camera personality you appreciate most?

By Noelani Torre

OF the hundreds upon hundreds of faces that flit through our television screens, only a few capture our interest for more than a few minutes. Even fewer are the ones that do so because we genuinely like them. Who are they?

We put this question to the people around us: Who is the on-camera personality you appreciate most? We asked them who among the bright stars of television and film they valued, and why.

The answers vary. Only one person was mentioned twice, Cheche Lazaro of "The Probe Team." However, the people selected by our respondents do have one thing in common—all but one belong to the world of news reporting and documentary. Apparently, the public does appreciate the heroic deeds of the news people that are constantly brought to our attention.

Perfectionist

"I'd say Jay Taruc of Channel 7. I like his way of reporting. *Mahusay.* He's a perfectionist. His reports are complete and very thorough. He always sounds intelligent, and *is* intelligent. And he reports the way a true reporter should report—objectively. He's not biased.

I admire the fact that he's always ready to take risks so that the people will know the truth. So, I'm happy that I can see him on TV. I appreciate his work, and he has also received awards, so other people obviously think the same way, too."—*Joanne Magsino, Cavite*

LAZARO. Articulate and confident.

* * *

"Cheche Lazaro. She's so confident! She projects herself very intelligently. I like watching her, listening to her reports. She's very articulate. She looks and sounds very professional, as if she's really serious about what she does, and

WHO/p.C5

BREAKFAST FARE. *Kesong puti*, sausage and corned beef.

Salo Restobar

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

WHEN you're out with friends in Quezon City and looking for a place music and dinner besides grilled or barbecued bar chow, where do you go? Wedged right between the two giant broadcasting networks, ABS-CBN and GMA 7, stands a new "restobar" called "Salo." In its elegant gold and purple interiors, DJ Mark Santiago welcomes guests with his personal mix of acid jazz, '70s disco, and Latin house music. At 10:30 p.m., the lights dim, the music gets slightly louder and the wine flows.

Salo is a new restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. At night, the Asian-inspired restaurant transforms into a bar.

Manager

DJ Mark is the manager and son of Salo Restobar's owners, the husband and wife tandem of Boy and Nina Santiago. Besides Filipino food, Salo which is a shortened form of "Salusalo" (gathering), serves an array of Asian dishes they especially adapted to suit the Pinoy palate with the help of a Bangkok-trained chef.

There are so many dishes crying out to be sampled. But from each country, Boy and Nina have chosen particular dishes and given it that Pinoy pizzazz.

Their Malaysian Beef Randang is, according to Boy, Malaysia's version of our *caldereta*. It is beef tenderized in coconut milk, tomato sauce, and chili sauce.

The Singaporean Spicy Crab is cooked in coconut, garlic, chillies, wine and chili powder.

Guests rave about their Japanese Tempura, which is extra crispy as a result of having icy water mixed with the butter. Their Philippine Adobo is thrice-cooked. It is tenderized in the usual vinegar sauce, grilled and sauteed.

Sandwiches

Salo also serves a variety of sandwiches like as Majestic ham on Pan de Sal or Crab Sandwich. Each sandwich is accompanied by a generous serving of salad. Salo also brags about its bar food, of which *sisig* is the favorite among bar patrons. They also serve a platter of German sausages and which go well with the drinks.

Salo is open from 10 a.m. until 2 a.m. and does catering for private functions. It is located at 34 Scout Esguerra st., near ABS-CBN, where Boy Santiago is one of its top sales airtime executives. Call 925-3295 for reservation.

SALO'S owners, Nina and Boy Santiago.

SOFT Shell Crab, Butterfly Catfish with mustard salsa and Pomelo Salad.

DJ Mark welcomes guests with his personal mix of acid jazz.

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Who is the on-camera personality you appreciate most?

(From page C4)

I've heard that she really is. Qualities like those are rare, don't you think? That's why I appreciate her more!"—*John de la Peña, Makati*

Alert

"Maki Pulido from GMA. I remember her particularly during Edsa 2 when Erap was being escorted out of Malacañang. She got there quick, ahead of ABS-CBN, and she was really alert. She was there running back and forth—in heels and business suit!—just so she could report what was happening to the public.

It's inspiring because I'm a broadcasting communications student. I like it that she gets people to pay attention to her. Very dramatic."—*Mayumi Verona, Davao*

* * *

"Aga Muhlach. Well, my reason is kind of shallow but I'm trying to be honest here. I'm glad that I see him on TV or in the movies. He's been around for a long time already but still his face is refreshing. Cute, boyish, playful. I never tire of looking at him. There, I value him primarily for his face. It just cheers me up!"—*Eileen Espina, Iligan City*

* * *

"Winnie Monsod. She's become so popular but she has never sacrificed her integrity. She speaks intelligently, makes witty remarks. *Magaling siyang mangbara*, but she does this in a very diplomatic way, not antagonistic.

She knows what she's talking about and she doesn't pretend to know what she doesn't know. She doesn't follow the new fashion of being aggressive on television, but she still manages to drive home her point. Refreshing to watch somebody like that!"—*Ryan Magiba, Pateros*

More credible

"Teddy Locsin Jr. He has a different style from the others, more neat and serious and, therefore, more credible. He's very concise, his sentences are unembellished and he has a wide vocabulary. His reports sound well-researched, too. It's great to listen to somebody like him who doesn't talk like a radio announcer."—*Amado Reyes, Bataan*

* * *

"Cheche Lazaro. She's so professional, more academic in the sense that she does more research. Or maybe it's only because she speaks so reassuringly. I mean, you're reassured when she speaks.

It's easy to believe what she says because she speaks clearly without any irritating 'sensationalistic' devices in her voice. I can follow her reports without getting annoyed or disgusted. I think it's because you know that she cares about her work and how it will affect you, the viewer."—*Grace Magalona, Quezon City*

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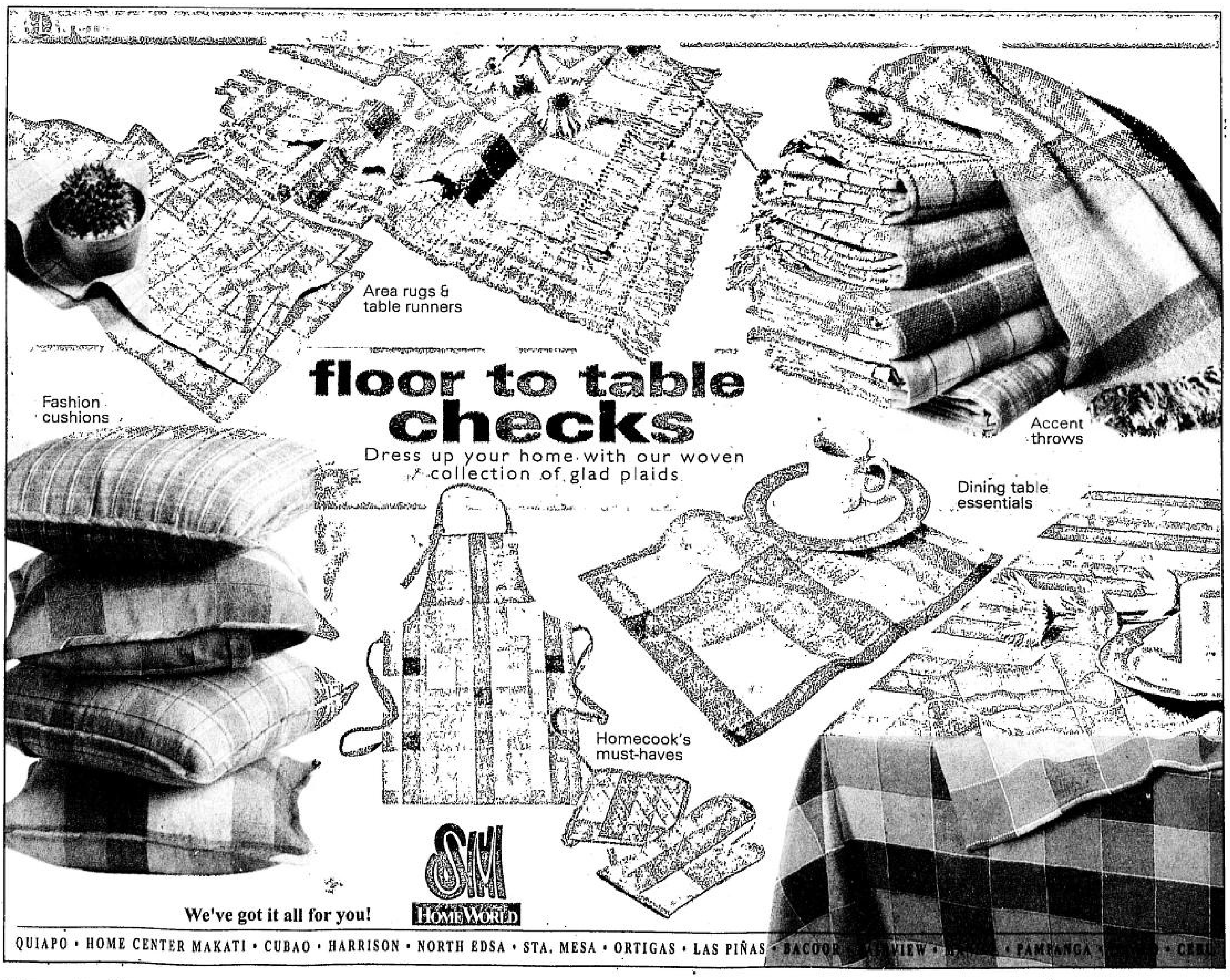

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Malou Santos produces films with power and heart

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

MALOU Santos is power personified. Sitting ca-sually, wearing a simple business suit, her face lights up as she talks about movies, the entertainment business and her dreams.

For a moment, lunch is forgotten as Malou talks animatedly. But she prefers to deflect the attention away from herself and shifts it towards the movies. What are the best and worst aspects of movie production?

Big family

"The best is being involved. You get to be part of this wonderful connection of people—from the actors and actresses, to the staff, directors, sound engineers and crew. It's like being a part of a big family. You work hard, rush to meet deadlines, tempers flare up, but in the end, it's all worth it, knowing that you have produced a good movie and anyone who gets to watch it will leave with a lesson learned.

"As Managing Director of Star Cinema, there's nothing easy about my job. I am not high-profile so I don't get the usual ego-boosting perks of show biz, like going to glitzy parties. I would say the best perk is it would be easier for me to see my fantasy stories onscreen, since I do the greenlighting on projects.

"It's easier for a closet fan like me to configure stars into love teams, rivalries, comebacks and award-winning roles—and of course, I get to watch movies for free!

"Not actually the worst aspect, but a challenging aspect is to continue making movies despite these turbulent times. It is rare for a studio to remain profitable at this time and still deliver quality movies. You know that scores of ABS-CBN stars are banking on us to make a go of their careers on the big screen.

High-stakes proposition

"You know that unlike other industries where products can be revised and sales projections can be adjusted, cinema is a high-stakes proposition. A bad film can 'bomb' a company into bankruptcy. Every project is do-or-die. You know your industry is losing audiences to television, pirated VCDs and Hollywood films. It is a wonder I can still sleep at night!"

Launched in 1993, Star Cinema now ranks as one of the country's top producers of quality Filipino feature films. It boasts of award-winning and blockbuster hits like "Bata, Bata... Paano Ka Ginawa?," "Madrasta," "May Nagmamahal Sa 'Yo," "Batang PX" and "Tanging Yaman." In her opinion, what is the best movie that Star Cinema has produced?

Malou clears her throat. "All the movies that we produce are the best in their own right. Personally, however, I can name a few that really left a lasting impression on me:

SANTOS. Initially, she resisted working in the movies.

CAST OF "TANGING YAMAN." Did not prejudge the Filipino moviegoer.

"'Sana Maulit Muli.' Aside from the movie being beautiful and the message it gave, it was my last 100 percent hands-on film as a line producer. So you can just imagine why it has sentimental value to me. The movie was filmed in San Francisco *at matindi talaga ang hirap* but when the movie was finished, it was all worth it. It is the film to which I gave my heart.

Tribute

"'Anak' is our tribute to everyone who ever became a child. It is our tribute to Filipino mothers, to the OFW, to the Filipino woman. I worked for two years to get the rights from Freddie Aguilar. Everyone was telling me, trailer *pa lang nakakaiyak na.* We were fulfilled when the movie was embraced by the public.

I am also proud of 'Tanging Yaman' and 'Madrasta' because they did not prejudge the Filipino moviegoer. 'Tanging Yaman' was to some extent, a religious film. 'Madrasta' reversed all stepmother stereotypes and Sharon Cuneta's squeaky-clean image. Yet both broke box-office records. Filipinos know what they want, and they want intelligent movies.

"Other notable films are 'Bata, Bata... Paano Ka Ginawa?' and 'Soltera.' 'Bata, Bata...' encountered lots of obstacles but I never wavered in my belief that it would be an important movie.

"I see myself in 'Soltera.' The movie's message tells us that even if you are single, you can be complete. You can achieve your goals, be who you want to be, and be happy even if you're single. It's not your marital status that defines how good a daughter, mother or friend you are, it's who you are. You can raise a family alone.

"It's the strength of one's character and how responsible a person is. It's how you can make yourself and the people around you happy.

"My current favorite now is 'Mila,' because it is an inspirational story.

"In the end, I guess movies are like babies, you cannot have one favorite baby because all of them are your children," she says.

Floods

Malou Santos is a certified movie fan. Along with her older sister, Charo Santos-Concio, she grew up listening to Inday Badiday on their Avegon transistor radio. She waded through the Libertad floods to watch Nora Aunor movies.

But she initially resisted filmmaking. Working as an assistant manager in Perpetual Savings Bank after earning a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management suited her. But Charo convinced her to work as a production assistant in "Pasukin si Waway" in 1982 and this renewed her interest in movies.

"My childhood love for watching movies made this job worthwhile. I wouldn't say it was fate, more likely because I was really into the movies, it was not difficult to take the job. It was like my previous work in the bank had only prepared me to do movie production. It's as if this is what I was born to do.

"Entering show biz was an eye-opener. I used to put stars on pedestals but working with them made me realize that *tao din pala sila.* Charo has been a great help, she's my mentor.

"Working in Regal Films for three years also helped me. Regal is like the industry itself and working for Mother Lily, well, she represents the different kinds of people in the business, so I learned the ropes from her," Malou relates.

(To be concluded)

National Artist for Film Ishmael Bernal, way back when

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Continuation)

ISHMAEL's first two (one and a half?) films, "A, Ewan, Basta sa Maynila Pa Rin Ako" and "Pagdating sa Dulo," are choice because they both vivify the new filmmaker's penchant for using humor as a rapier-sharp weapon for social commentary.

Icons

With his saucy sight gags and blithe but deadly punchlines, Bernal cut down any number of political and pop-cultural icons.

In "Maynila," his target was the Pinoy urban dweller himself, with all of his hectic shticks and tics, and his grasping, gung-ho genius for survival.

The movie's central images were garbage and traffic jams, which to Bernal defined not only the big city's social landscape, but also the souls of its inhabitants.

On the other hand, "Pagdating" zeroed in on the immensely spoofable world of Philippine movies, particularly the film scene when the movie was made (in the early '70s), a time when local cinema's output was dominated by sexy flicks.

Thus, the movie's female protagonist was an aspiring sex star, played by Rita Gomez, who slept her way to the top of the film heap—which the filmmaker saw as yet another mound of garbage, with a distinctly foul aroma of its own.

THE legendary Rita Gomez with Vic Vargas in "Pagdating sa Dulo."

Major find

Ishmael was an unknown on the film scene at the time, but our small group of film buffs and writers hailed him so loudly as a major find that mainstream cinema couldn't help but take notice of this impudent upstart in their midst, who spoke French like a native, had studied film in India, had fought with a producer, and was now shooting a film on the slimmest of shoestring budgets provided by friends and friends of friends, who didn't care if they never saw their money again (they got their wish: they didn't).

Young filmmakers like Bernal were fortunate because publications like The Manila Chronicle and Daily Express were starting to write "seriously" about Filipino films.

Puff pieces

In the past, coverage of the local film industry and its output was generally limited to running press releases and puff pieces about stars.

There were reviews of local films run in the '50s and '60s, but they tended to be occasional pieces since most everybody was so ga-ga over American movies (as they still are to this day, more's the pity). So, when our pages in the Chronicle ran regular reviews of Filipino films, the impact was strong.

In time, it became "in" to write think pieces about local movies, the focus of which wasn't on the stars, but on filmmakers. This may sound unexceptional at this time, but in those days, it was a radical departure that encouraged viewers to look at movies as films, instead of as vehicles for their favorite stars.

Alternative

Later, most of the editors and reviewers of the early '70s banded together to form the country's first reviewers' group, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, one of whose functions was to put up annual film awards that provided a much-needed alternative to the older awards groups, whose verdicts were felt to be tainted—but that's another story.

The point is, new filmmakers like Bernal and Lino Brocka who started to make their mark in the '70s were helped by the corollary development of local film criticism, which made their work known to a larger audience.

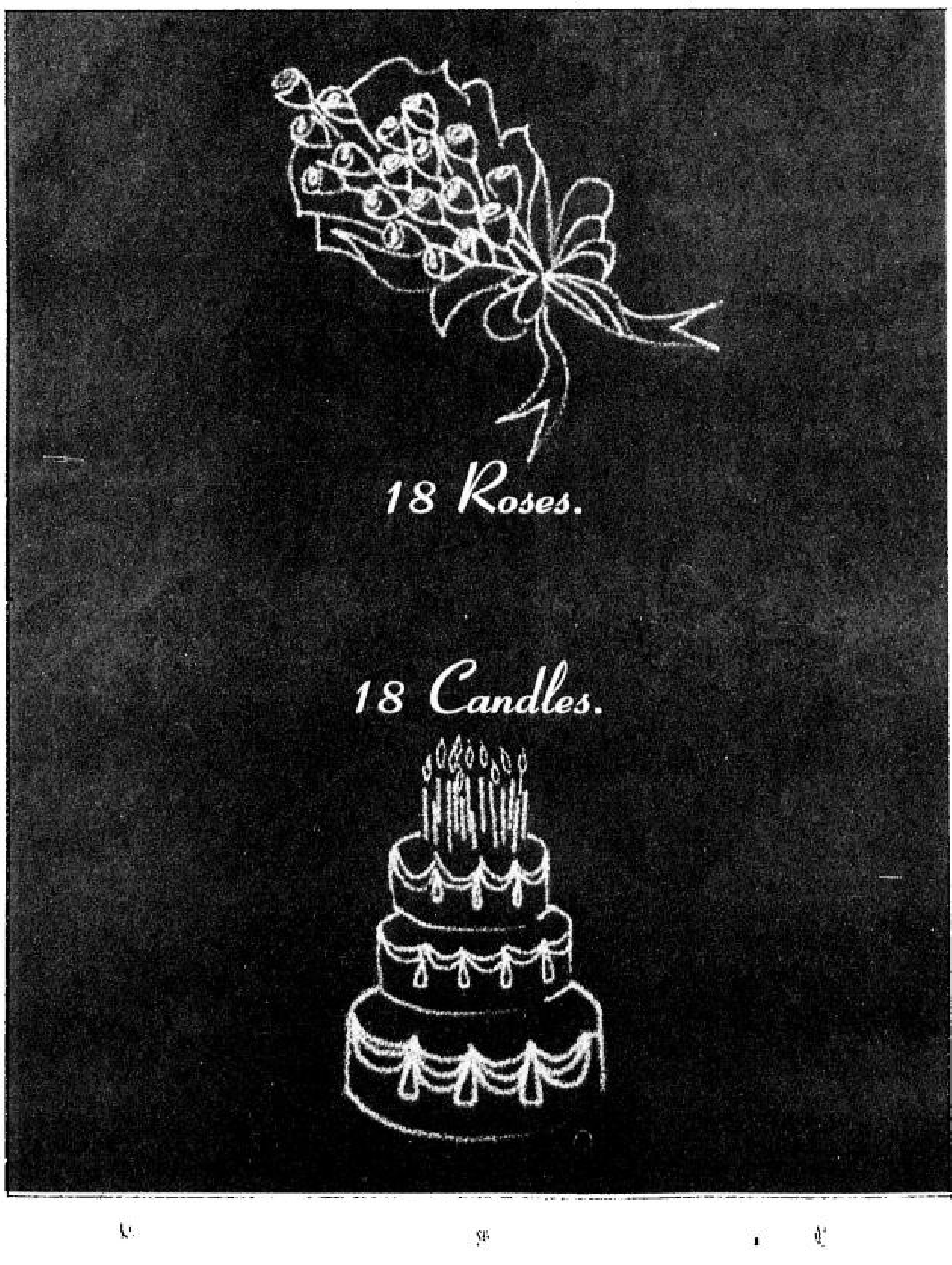
Reviewers like the *manunuri* favored the films of Bernal and Brocka not because they were their friends, but because they were fresh, innovative and daring—sometimes, even "dangerously" so.

Friendly boost

While Ishmael was shooting "Pagdating sa Dulo," we film buffs and friends of Ishmael and Rita would visit the movie's set to give them a friendly boost, and to act as extras.

That's why, in the film, there's a sequence before a press conference for Rita's launching film as a sex star, where the PR of the movie runs in and bleats, "*O, mag-uumpisa na ang press conference—dumating na si* NUT!"

Thanks, Ishma, for the name-drop. *(To be continued)*



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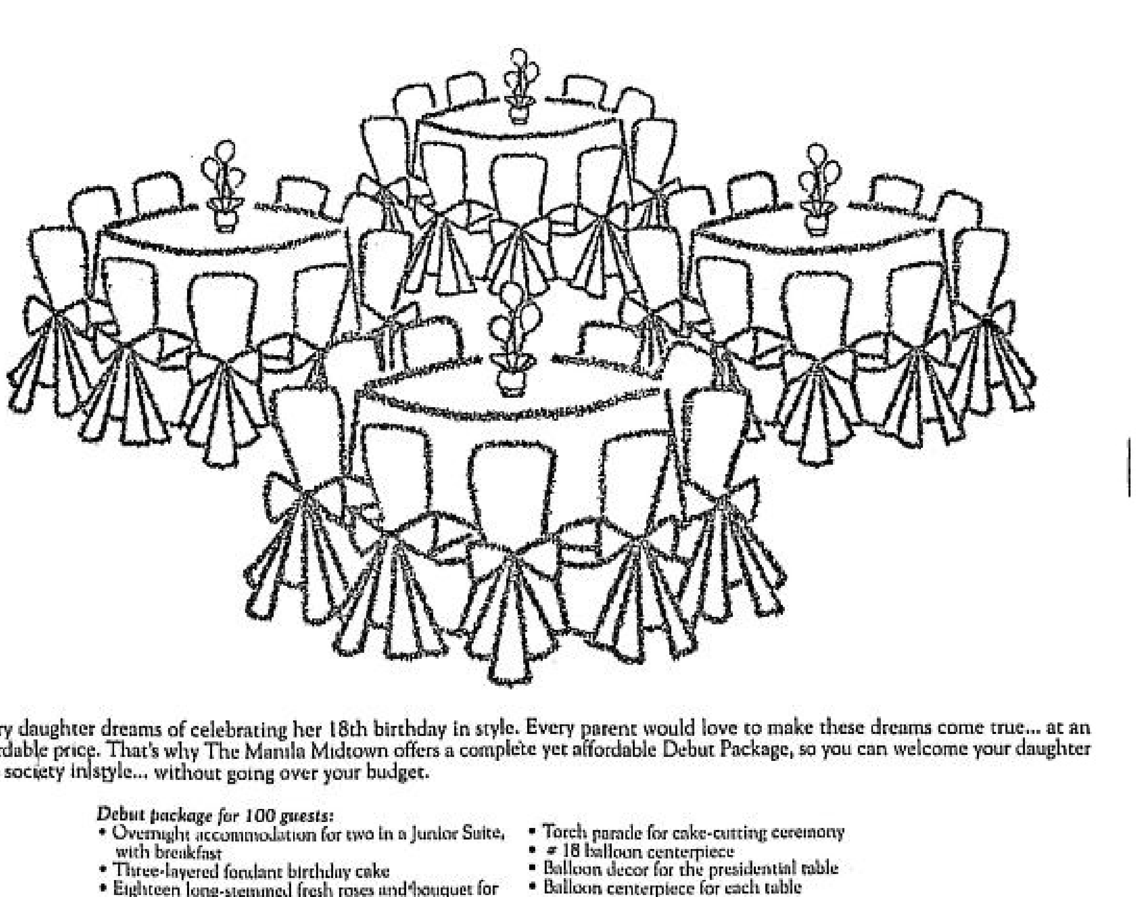

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Karylle hugs the spotlight

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

KARYLLE recently launched her debut album, "Time To Shine" at Hard Rock Café. She sings exactly like her mom, Zsa-Zsa Padilla, plus she knows how to dance.

Karylle admits though that she felt awkward when she was doing the music video for her single, "Can't Live Without You."

"Geleen Eugenio trained me for two months. In the beginning, *ayaw na nila akong turuan sumayaw, kasi lagi akong nagkakamali.* I was a cheerleader in high school so I can move. I was also into ballet so I dance gracefully. But I had a hard time doing hiphop," Karylle winces.

While she was preparing for her debut album, Karylle started rehearsals for her first stage musical, "Little Mermaid" where she plays Princess Sapphire. She studied Communications Technology Management at the Ateneo de Manila University. How did she convince her dad to allow her to pursue a singing career?

"I always sang for my friends in debuts and parties. It came to the point when I sang for my friends every week and my dad noticed. He gave me a push, I didn't have to convince him. He made a few phone calls to get me started. My Tito German (Moreno) wanted me to sing since I was small.

"I didn't want to be a singer before, because singing made me sad. But I outgrew that feeling. It doesn't mean that just because I'm a singer, I'll also have a broken family."

Zsa Zsa Padilla nervously watched from the sidelines as Karylle sang and danced. "I have very big dreams for her. I want her to be the happiest person in the world. I know she thinks I'll be criticising every little thing in her album but I'm very proud of her. When I was her age, I couldn't even dance!," Zsa Zsa exclaimed.

Aside from her cool dancing skills, Karylle earns points for spontaneity. After singing "Angel of My Heart," "Bakit Ba Ikaw," and "Breaking My Heart Boy," she giggles and begins to drink her mineral water. "I'm sorry I forgot the whole script which I was suppose to memorize backstage. Performing here just seems different. My first performance in school was horrible! All my classmates at Poveda just stared at me, no reaction."

Does she want to replace her mom as a diva? "I don't really aspire to be a big star. I try not to blind myself with the diva tag. I know my mom is also uncomfortable with it. I just want to do well. I never dreamed of being a singer. I wanted to be a prima ballerina, I avoided singing. Singing was the last option on my to-be list," she clarifies.

She recorded the composition of international pop star, Gil, "Callin" as a duet and relishes the experience. If she had her way, with whom would she want to have another duet?

"Craig David. I always listen to him and I love his compositions. He succeeded as a songwriter because he worked hard and didn't give up. He's such a cool person. I also want to do a duet with Kyla. I did a duet with her on 'SOP' and I was embarrassed to tell her that she was my idol because we're the same age.

"I also want to sing 'Kahit Na' with my mom. Even as a kid, I loved that song. I always hear it in my head. I can even copy my mom's voice when I do it," she grins.

Rex Agoncillo and Ryan Ramos aim for the top

A commercial model at age 4, Rex Agoncillo knows how to highlight his best assets. But his boyish good looks can work against him if he decides to pursue a career in comedy. After doing TV shows since he was nine years old, Rex says he's ready to try anything.

"Maybe I can be a matinee idol or a dramatic actor. But I don't see myself as an action star, I don't have the body for it," Rex grins.

While Rex is honing his skills in drama and comedy, he's hitting the books and studying hard to fulfill his dream of becoming a computer engineer someday.

Ryan Ramos lives by the Forrest Gump motto, "Life is a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get," and swears that his being an actor is just an accident.

"I never imagined myself as an actor. Now I'm in the chaotic but fun world of show business. Versatility is the key to success. If all roles are as good as chocolates, I want to try them all!"

Ntwine Band believes in teamwork

Judging from the huge turnout at Strumms last week, the Ntwine band made sure that it gave the best in cruise music for the Crossover Live party. After belting out tunes like "Sunlight," "Best Days," "Gotta Be," "Fill Me In," "Tattoed on My Mind" and "So Slow," we can safely say that it is one of the best bands we've heard.

Teamwork seems to be strong in the group. After each song, they looked at each other briefly to give out signals. Then they did two ballads, "Lately" and "Fallin" without upstaging each other. They each shared a "moment" to bask in the spotlight, and the audience loved it.

They received a standing ovation after crooning "My Life Is Incomplete." Their R & B sound was so good, they almost sounded black.

They kept the momentum going with upbeat tunes like "You Are the Universe," "Hey," "Gotta Catcha Baby," "100 Percent Pure Love" and "Together Again."

Underwear endorsers

It used to be that undergarment endorsements were reserved for a few brave models who possessed the three B's: Big, Body, Beautiful. But since the earning opportunities of many of our celebrities have been eroded, so some of them have been lured to accept underwear endorsements.

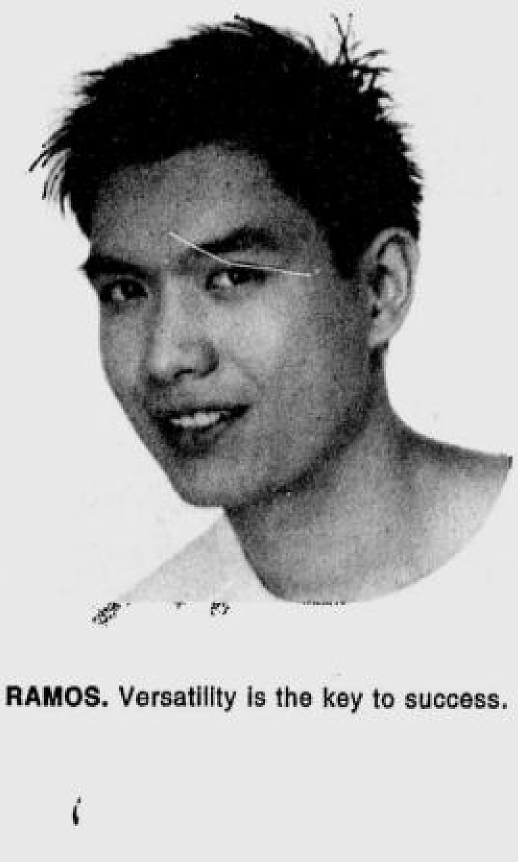
Take the case surge of the current batch of underwear endorsers: Carlos Agassi; Jericho Rosales, Cesar Montano, Sunshine Cruz and the latest Hartmann image models, Patricia Javier, basketball star Alex Compton and even South Border lead vocalist Luke Mejares.

It was an afternoon delight at the Hartmann launch in Manila Hotel where gorgeous models bared their most basic necessities in a special fashion show directed by Robbie Carmona.

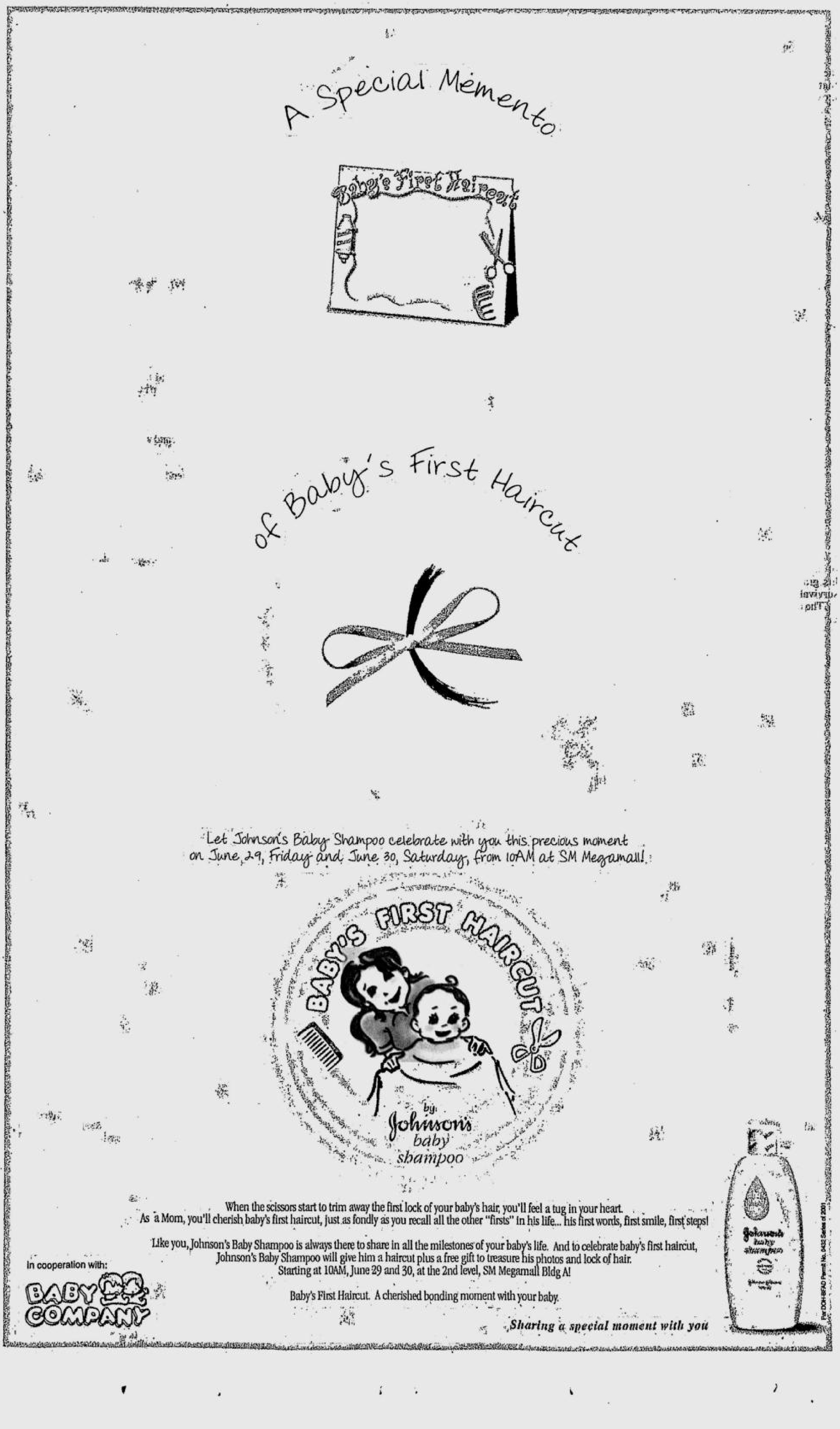
The Hartmann brand is manufactured by Mansfield International, the same owners of Hanford briefs who recently signed up Cesar Montano to be their Classic image model.

KARYLLE. Zsa Zsa Padilla's talented daughter is coming into her own as a singer and dancer.

AGONCILLO. Knows how to highlight his best assets.



RAMOS. Versatility is the key to success.



Let Johnson's Baby Shampoo celebrate with you this precious moment on June 29, Friday and June 30, Saturday, from 10AM at SM Megamall!

When the scissors start to trim away the first lock of your baby's hair, you'll feel a tug in your heart.
As a Mom, you'll cherish baby's first haircut, just as fondly as you recall all the other "firsts" in his life... his first words, first smile, first steps!

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9. John Paul Caasi
10. Boris Razon
11. Christopher Hernandez
12. John Erwin Hernandez

WAP

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2. Joseph Bartolome Ligot
3. Tyron Tei
4. LJ Perez
5. Anthony Rayo
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7. Brian Amor
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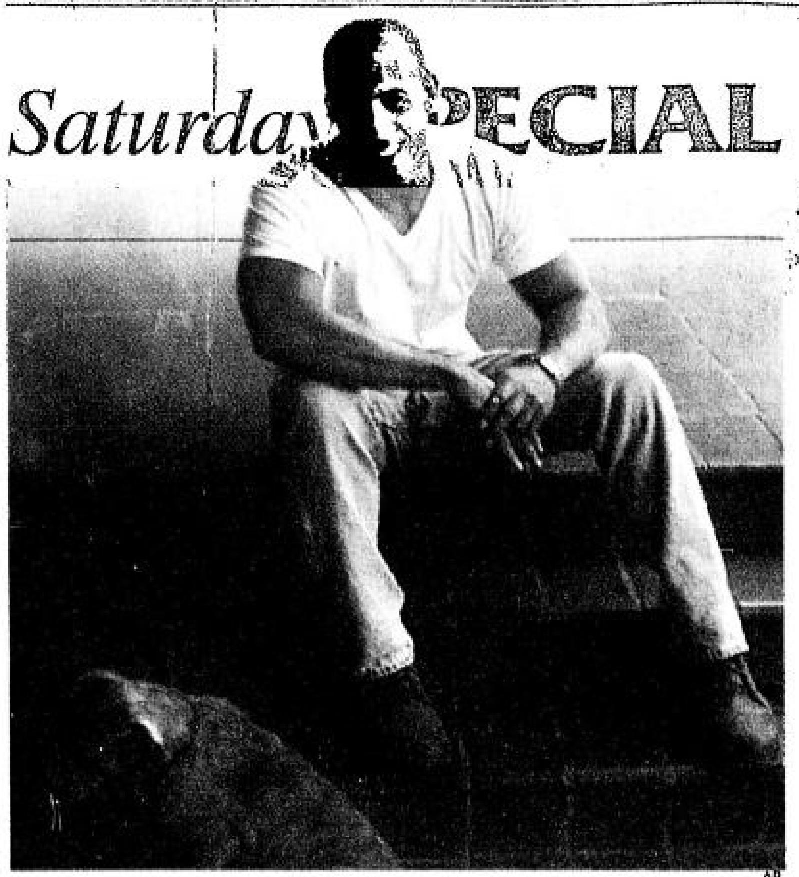

DIESEL stars in the new hit, "The Fast and the Furious." AP

'Fast and the Furious' is top film in United States

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—"The Fast and the Furious," a thriller about Los Angeles street racers, opened as the weekend's No. 1 film in the United States, grossing $41.6 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Sequel

Eddie Murphy's "Dr. Dolittle 2" opened in second place. The sequel about the veterinarian who speaks with furry creatures took in $26.7 million.

Last weekend's top film, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," finished third with $20.2 million, a steep 58 percent drop from its debut. "Tomb Raider," starring Angelina Jolie, has grossed $84.2 million in 10 days.

The overall box office soared, with the top 12 movies taking in $140.6 million, up 44 percent from the same weekend last year.

"The Fast and the Furious" benefitted from an up-and-coming cast that includes Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster and Michelle Rodriguez. Diesel plays the leader of a street-racing outfit whose gang is infiltrated by an undercover detective (Walker).

With a cast of white, Hispanic, black and Asian actors, the movie drew wide-ranging crowds. Half the audience was white, 24 percent was Hispanic, 11 percent was Asian-American and 10 percent was black, according to distributor Universal.

Moviegoers younger than 25 made up three-fourths of the audience.

Rob Cohen, who directed the film, spent the weekend visiting theaters and found the movie played well across-the-board.

Common turf

"It was great to see this common turf that brings these ethnicities together peacefully under one roof, all enjoying the film in the same way."

Fast cars, a hip soundtrack and a trailer that ran before Universal's "The Mummy Returns," one of the year's biggest hits, also helped "The Fast and the Furious."

"It had everything teen-agers are looking for in summer, both in real life and movies: Cool cars, beautiful people, great music," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations, which tracks the box office.

Universal originally scheduled "The Fast and the Furious" for release in March. But studio Vice Chairman Marc Shmuger bumped it to June, figuring the movie could hold its own against big summer flicks.

"We were sensing greater opportunity by moving to summer, but also greater risk, because now we were having to compete against franchises and blockbuster movies," Shmuger said. "But if you can compete against them, the results are unbeatable."

Budget

The opening-weekend haul for "The Fast and the Furious" wound up exceeding its production budget of $38 million.

The sequel to "Dr. Dolittle," a $140 million hit, had a higher profile early on. The first film opened at No. 1 with $29 million in June 1998.

In limited release, the German film "The Princess and the Warrior" opened strongly, taking in $54,000 in three theaters.

The movie reteams director Tom Tykwer and actress Franka Potente, who collaborated on "Run Lola Run."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. :

1. "The Fast and the Furious," $41.6 million.
2. "Dr. Dolittle 2," $26.7 million.
3. "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," $20.2 million.
4. "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," $13.2 million.
5. "Shrek," $11 million.
6. "Swordfish," $7.7 million.
7. "Pearl Harbor," $7 million.
8. "Moulin Rouge," $3.8 million.
9. "Evolution," $3.6 million.
10. "The Animal," $3 million.

AP

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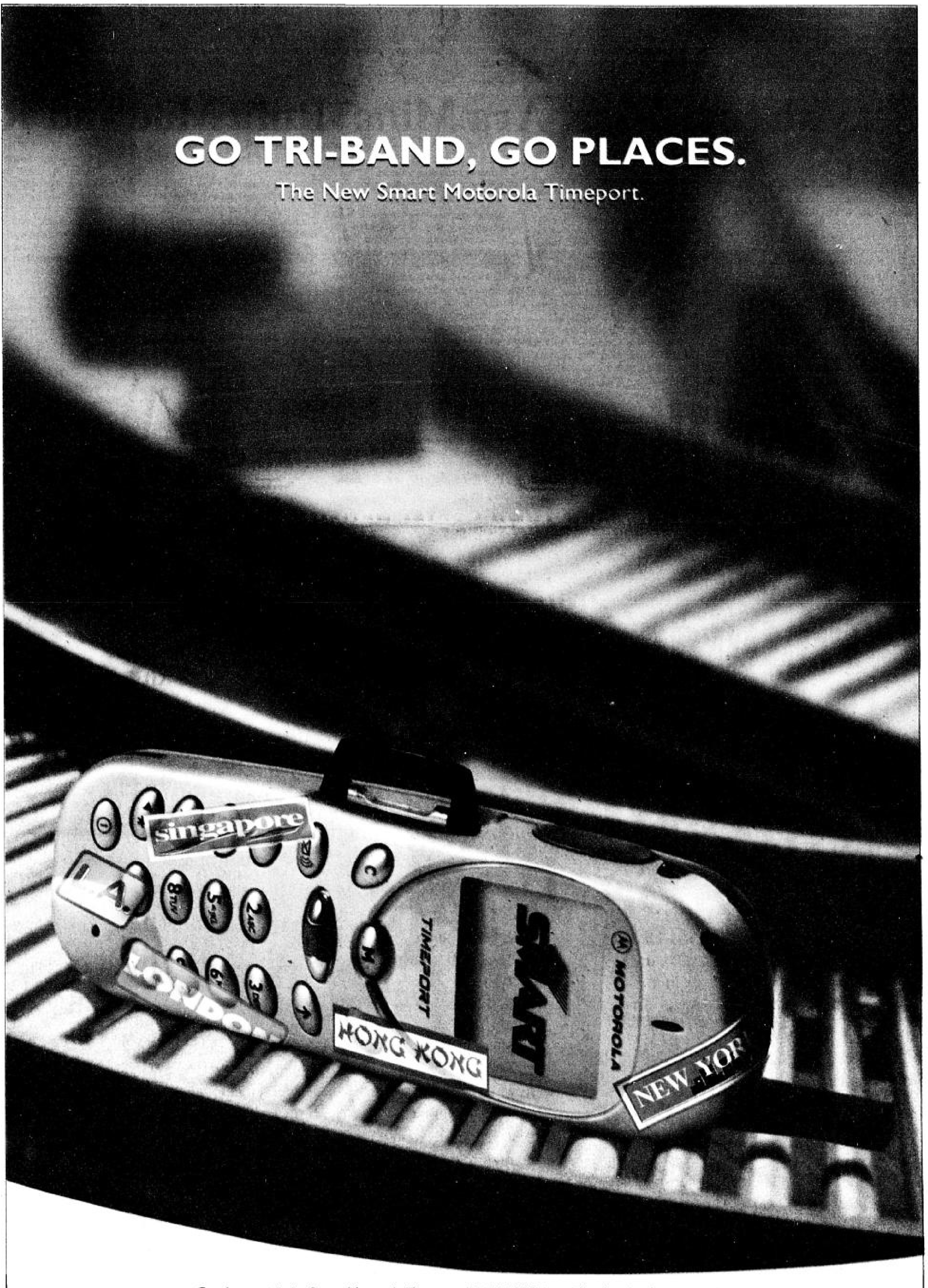

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ABS-CBN researcher wins top CNN award

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ABS-CBN researcher Melissa Lopez is only 23 years old, but she recently topped older and more experienced TV people from different countries when she won the plum award at the CNN World Report Conference for her story, "Bombing at Camp Abubakar," which CNN first aired on June 11, 2000.

Lopez's story bested 29 other finalists for the Best News Report award. This is the first time that a story by an Asian TV network has copped the main prize in the World report tilt. The award was given last June 1 at CNN Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lopez also got finalist honors in the Best Submission to a Special category for "Crucifixion," her piece on the Holy Week rituals in Pampanga.

Lopez received her Best News Report award from CNN executive Eason Jordan.

'Lara Croft' premiere

Last June 26, MTV Philippines sponsored a premiere screening of "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" at Cinema 6 of Glorietta 4. Simon West's film has made a big star of Angelina Jolie, who plays the title role. The film also stars Jon Voight, Iain Glen and Daniel Craig.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV, Channel 32 on Sky Cable, and Channel 41 on Home Cable. All cable companies carry MTV Philippines in Metro Manila.

Correction

We made a mistake in last Thursday's Viewfinder: The TV program that Sharon Cuneta guested on last June 23 was "Startalk," not "S-Files." Our apologies.

New FRB

The Film Ratings Board (FRB) has started screening movies for Film Year 2001, with the view in mind of providing incentives in the form of amusement tax rebates for quality motion pictures.

The membership of the new FRB, as appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: chairman, Zenaida Amador, theater director, Repertory Philippines president, and columnist. vice chair, Digna Santiago, film producer.

Caridad Babao, movie-TV actress; Mary Rose Moreno, literature teacher; Bernadette Paterno, scriptwriter and literature teacher; Carmelita Samson, designer; Susanne Santos, banker; Monica Villonco, TV producer; Phylita Joy Virata, stage actress and director.

Alexander Cortez, stage actor, director and teacher; Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr., scriptwriter, filmmaker and teacher; Lourd Ernest de Veyra, journalist and poet; Placido Escudero, Jr., film director and production designer; Arsenio (Butch) Francisco, film critic, writer and TV host; Maurice Gallaga, film director and production designer; Bart Guingona, stage actor and director; Ricardo Herrero, film and stage actor; Joel Lamangan, film director; Teodoro Lopez, media com, KOMPIL sec't.

Antonio Mabesa, actor, director and teacher; Emmanuel Mallonga, stage actor; Leo Martinez, actor and director; Christian Monsod III, composer and businessman; Jesus Navarro, film editor; Enrico Quizon, film actor and director; Alfredo Santos, actor and director; Ernesto Zarate, architect and actor; and this writer.

New Concorde releases

Concorde Records has released veteran singer Fred Panopio's album, which includes nine of his greatest hits.

Also out is "The Best of Lolita Carbon," featuring 12 of the Asin group vocalist's beautiful songs, plus a couple of duets with the legendary Freddie Aguilar.

Finally, the album "Sampaguita, Coritha and Lolita Sing Freddie Aguilar's Hit Songs" features new arrangements of Ka Freddie's most popular tunes, as interpreted by three of the country's most acclaimed female folk or rock singers.

'Cesar Asar, the Movie'

Mon Lee and Roxlee's "Cesar, Asar, the Movie" will be shown today, June 30, at the UP Film Center.

The alternative film revolves around a whodunnit plot and has been praised for its zany approach and "deep messages," but unfortunately hasn't made it to the commercial film circuit.

The brothers' short film, "Tito's Wedding," will also be screened. The 10-minute comedy won best picture, screenplay and direction honors in the short film category of the 1994 Metro filmfest. Tickets at the UP Film Center.

Rock concert

A concert, "Rock Musika, Noon at Ngayon," will be held at the Folk Arts Theater at 8 p.m. today. It features Mike Hanopol, Joey Smith, Sampaguita, Coritha, Mike and Noah, Eraserheads, RiverMaya and Parokya ni Edgar. Tickets at TicketWorld (891-5610) or Citizens' Mass Media Services (527-1321).

FEGI AND ESCALANTE. 'Froth of July' performers.

'Froth of July'

Joey invites you to its "Froth of July grand celebration at the NBC Tent, the Fort on July 6. The revelry starts at 9:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

Bituin Escalante, Ana Fegi, Toy Symphony and Malik set the stage on fire with their red-hot performances, capped by a spectacular fireworks display.

Joey will also pick out the lucky winner of its star-spangled promotion, who will travel with a companion all the way to the United States, courtesy of Northwest Airlines. Other presentors include Miller MGD, Bay Fresh and Bankard Mastercard.

Sexy sirens: Jessa, Ara Mina, Rufa Mae and Rica

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

SIRENS. Women envy them, men fantasize about them. Jessa Zaragosa, Ara Mina, Rufa Mae Quinto and Rica Peralejo have this uncanny ability to combine innocence with sensuality.

They seem unaware of their strong sex appeal, vulnerability and child-like curiosity. Or if they're aware of it, they just shrug it off and ignore their effect on people. What really makes these women tick?

Ara Mina

Her sweet bedimpled face clashes with her sexy, tempestuous image. But there is nothing vulgar or haughty about Ara Mina even as she describes the sexual positions she learned while filming "Sagad sa Init" "Tatlo . . . Magkasalo." It's all part of her job.

Yes, she has men salivating in "Pahiram Kahit Sandali," "Kahapon May Dalawang Bata," "Apoy sa Iyong Halik," "Phone Sex," and "Nagaapoy na Laman" but children are also captivated with her antics in "Bubble Gang" and on the sitcom "Kiss Muna."

"Wholesome *at* conservative *dapat ang* role *ko pag bata ang mga nanonood sa akin. Gusto kong maging* Darna *at nagawa ko na iyon sa* 'Super Klenk.' *Gusto ko ring maging tomboy sa pelikula, parang si* Sharon (Cuneta) *sa* 'Jack N' Jill,' Ara shares.

It never entered her mind to become a bold and sexy actress. When she was a member of "That's Entertainment," she wore body stockings if production numbers required her to show her flesh.

She claims that her body isn't perfect. She notes that she has to wear a Wonder Bra to create more cleavage, and stays on a steady diet to maintain her 36-24-36 vital statistics.

"I don't eat rice. Four years *na akong hindi umiinom ng* soft drinks. I go to the gym to maintain my figure. Chubby *ako pero may korte pa rin,*" Ara grins.

Ara adds that her screen persona is different from her real personality. She's a homebody. She prefers looking at her matchboxes and NBA posters than to have a nightlife. The wildest thing she's ever done is to disrobe before the cameras, but she's slowly veering away from that image.

Jessa Zaragosa

She began her acting career with bold and *kontrabida* roles in movies but she soon discovered that singing was a better alternative. After selling thousands of albums for OctoArts, Jessa decided to sign up with Star Records. If regular airplay is a gauge for a hit, then her song "Ibigay Mo Na" is a sure winner.

Photographs in the album show Jessa in provocative poses, but they're not daring enough. Her move to produce her album is, though. She revives Ding Dong Avanzado's hit, "Maghihintay Sa Yo" and sings a duet with him in "Glory of Love." She even composed the song, "Till The End" for him.

The inspiration to write "Till The End" came when she and Ding Dong were having trouble with their relationship. Jessa labels that period as "hard times."

Her relationship with Ding Dong can be called controversial and rocky. But Jessa thinks otherwise. She feels that the problems just made her bond with Ding Dong stronger and proved to her that Ding Dong was "The One."

Jessa tied the knot with Ding Dong on March 18, 3 p.m. at the Christ The King Church. She lovingly calls him "Honey-Bunny" and wrote an inspiring message for him in the liner notes of her album. "He opened a new world which I had never have known before, thus inspiring me to continue living, not only for myself but for the people who catapulted me to where I am now," Jessa reveals. "I'm so happy *na siya ang dumating sa buhay ko.*"

Rufa Mae Quinto

Just like Ara Mina, Rufa Mae was a "wholesome" performer on "That's Entertainment." But her career was going nowhere so she made a drastic change by playing a sexy *labandera* in "Gloria Labandera."

Because of her ample "assets" and the revealing poses and bedroom encounters she had with her leading man, Gary Estrada, Rufa Mae got the attention of the male audience. But she wanted to stand out from the other "boldies," so Rufa Mae opted to be a comedienne, too.

Playing the dumb but kind-hearted secretary of Aga Muhlach in "Dahil May Isang Ikaw" and the dim-wit in "Booba" proved that she could be wacky.

She had doubts about accepting the lead role in "Booba" because of the pressure. She was content with her status as a leading lady and supporting cast but director Joyce Bernal convinced her to take the risk.

"*Pinag-aawayan na ako ng mga* networks *ngayon*. I only get four hours of sleep every night. I have an album, and I'm taping for "Arriba-Arriba," "Ispup" and "Subic." *Mas mahirap pero* I'm happier now with my career. *Sikat na ako,*" Rufa Mae jests.

Rica Peralejo

She was a sweet teeny-booper in teen flicks and movies, but after her break-up with Bojo Molina, Rica Peralejo decided to shed her wholesome image for a more daring, sizzling persona onscreen.

She first bared in "Ex-Con." She was the vampy kitten in "Balahibong Pusa" fighting with Joyce Jimenez for the affection of Jay Manalo. In her latest movie, "Huling Paghihintay," Rica had a nude underwater scene with Bernard Palanca.

Rica prefers her role in "Huling Paghihintay" to "Balahibong Pusa." "My character in 'Balahibong Pusa' was flirty and *maarte,* but I'm more romantic and sweet in "Huling Paghihintay."

She watched "Balahibo" in Cebu and she held her sister's hand while the delicate scenes were playing onscreen. "*Nakakailang*. But after watching the movie, I felt proud of what I did, I was not ashamed," Rica avers.

Earning the label "Pantasya ng Bayan" thrills and flatters her. "I'm flattered that people find me sexy *kasi patpating bata lang ako dati*. But that's not how I want to be called. I got into this because I love the craft, not because I wanted to be a star. I love the fact that I can explore my talents and express myself."

Rica disagrees with the notion that she became sexy because she wanted to rebel against Bojo Molina. She insists that her decision was a career move and a natural part of her growing maturity as an actress.

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Great culinary discoveries at Café Berrio

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

CHARINA is a fellow foodie whose passion for chow has led me to many discoveries.

Everytime she unearths a find, I am a beneficiary of her tip. There are many other foodies out there but not all of us have the same taste. So, whenever I get a whisper from those *na "ka*-vibes *ko,*" off I go.

Coffee shop

Café Berrio is on the 5th floor of Discovery Suites. It is a nicely decorated coffee shop that not very many people know about. But, the moment the food comes out of that kitchen, the place immediately sets itself apart from the rest.

Presentation is beautiful. The selection of dishes is new and different. The visual presentation is outstanding and taste blends with appearance. Not everything on the menu made me dance, but many kept me raving and I went back the next day with my wife.

I started with a few appetizers. The Lemon Grass Shrimp is a best-seller. The spinach-wrapped scallop is not only presented well, bit it also has the taste to go with it. The Tomato Tower is a whole tomato with slices of fontina and mozzarella cheese in between, served with candied walnut, Pesto and Italian dressing.

The warm Scallop salad was superb. It's made up of pan-seared scallops with mixed greens, oranges, citrus pepper vinaigrette and crispy onion rings. You'll know the Chef knows what he's doing when the scallops are perfectly cooked.

Authentic

The Clam Chowder tasted authentic. I had a delicious pasta called Gamberoni Cappelini. This is angel hair pasta with shrimp, asparagus, basil and tomato cream. A winner for pasta lovers.

The Monte Cristo sandwich is served with fresh fruits— a complete meal presented in a nicely decorated way. The duckbreast in Blueberry sauce was also great.

But of all the dishes I flipped over, it was the Seared Sea Bass that I couldn't stop raving about. This is Chilean Sea bass marinated in a sweet tomato vinaigrette, served with roasted garlic potato puree and sauted asparagus, topped with balsamic basil essence. A must! I had no room for dessert.

But that wasn't the end of my encounters at Discovery. I checked the prices, and they're far from the hold-up at some fine dining places, plus you get nicer presentation and great food.

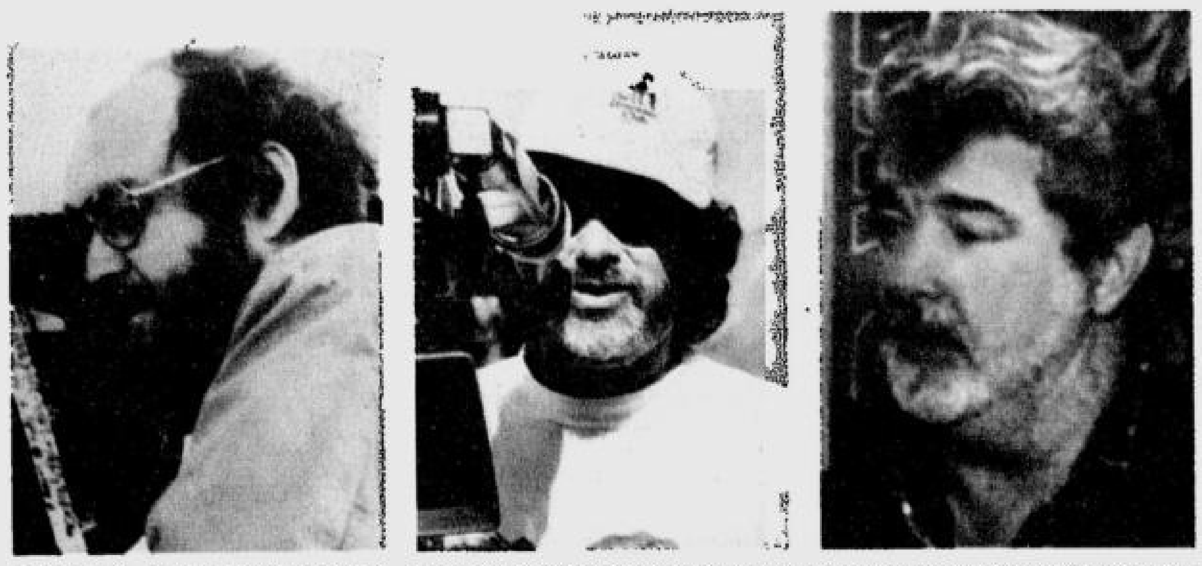
You want a new discovery? Check out the Café Berrio at the Discovery Suites, 5th floor along ADB avenue at Ortigas Center. Tel. 635-2222, ext. 3805. It is worth a visit—and more.

Happy Eating!

There is an Asparagus festival at Prince Albert. Tried it, also worth a visit. White asparagus and the green ones are both flown in from France.

Masters of the sci-fi film

By Nestor U. Torre


KUBRICK, SPIELBERG, LUCAS. Some of their films give a futuristic spin to the age-old battle between good and evil.

"STAR WARS." Smashed box-office records.

OUR continuing appreciation of the "magical" appeal of the film medium takes us to the field of science-fiction filmmaking, and the master filmmakers working in it. Let's focus specifically on the contributions of George Pal, Stanley Kubrick, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and Luc Besson:

Contract

Born in Hungary, George Pal created animated advertising shorts in Holland, then went to Hollywood, where he was awarded a contract to make "The Puppetoons" (1941-47), a series of stop-motion shorts that won a special Oscar in 1943.

In the 1950s, Pal began producing imaginative sci-fi features, using special effects which at the time were regarded as astonishing. Some of them were "Destination Moon" (1950), "When Worlds Collide" (1951) and "War of the Worlds" (1953).

He won Oscars for all three, as well as for "Tom Thumb" (1958) and "The Time Machine" (1950), which he also directed. To this day, George Pal is regarded as one of the finest "fantasists" to work in Hollywood.

Stanley Kubrick

For his part, Stanley Kubrick is represented in the sci-fi mode by films like "Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "A Clockwork Orange."

In "Dr. Strangelove," the US president must contend with the Russians and his own political and military leaders when a fanatical general launches an atomic bomb attack on the USSR. Peter Sellers plays multiple roles—the president, a British captain and the mad inventor of the bomb—in this brilliant black comedy.

Masterpiece

"2001: A Space Odyssey" is described by a reviewer as "a unique masterpiece, immensely influential." Kubrick depicts several encounters mankind has had with aliens from outer space, from the dawn of man four million years ago onward.

The year in the film's title is when an alien artifact is found on the moon. An expedition tracking its radio signal is launched to Jupiter, with mysterious, haunting results.

A visual feast, the film was scripted by Arthur C. Clarke and Kubrick, based on Clarke's "The Sentinel."

And "A Clockwork Orange" is a scathing satire on a society in the not so distant future. Kubrick's vivid screen adaptation of Anthony Burgess' novel was too strong for some viewers in 1971, and Kubrick later banned the screening of the film, for fear that it would spark imitative violence.

Thriller

George Lucas studied film at the University of Southern California, and was later taken under the wing of Francis Ford Coppola. He directed the sci-fi thriller, "THX-1130" in 1971.

The film told a futuristic tale in the "1984" vein about a robotlike society where sex is forbidden and everybody looks the same. Critics described it as "visually impressive."

Six years later, Lucas' "Star Wars" was nominated for 10 Oscars and smashed box-office records. It was such a big hit that it led to sequels like "The Empire Strikes Back" *and* a "prequel," all of which clicked with sci-fi fans.

Ephraim Katz sums up Lucas' preeminent status: "As the man responsible for several of the highest grossing films in the history of cinema, Lucas exerted enormous creative and financial influence on the movie business during the '80s. He has also been involved in developing TV films ('The Ewok Adventure'), TV series ('The Indiana Jones Chronicles'), and multimedia software for educational and entertainment uses."

Beyond their spectacular imagery, Lucas' sci-fi films work in their own unique way because they give a futuristic spin to the age-old battle between good and evil, with astronauts instead of knights, and extraterrestrial monsters and ambitious intergalactic rulers in place of the fire-breathing dragons of classic adventure tales and heroic legends. (***To be concluded***)

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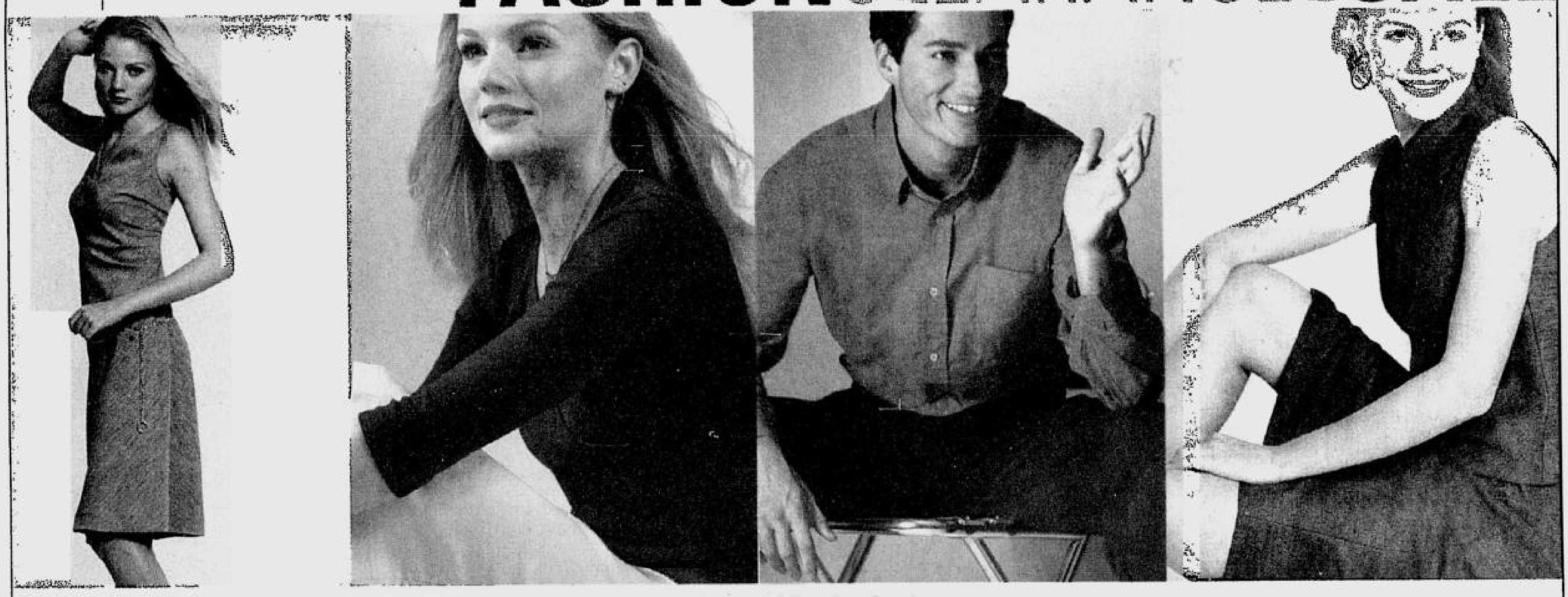

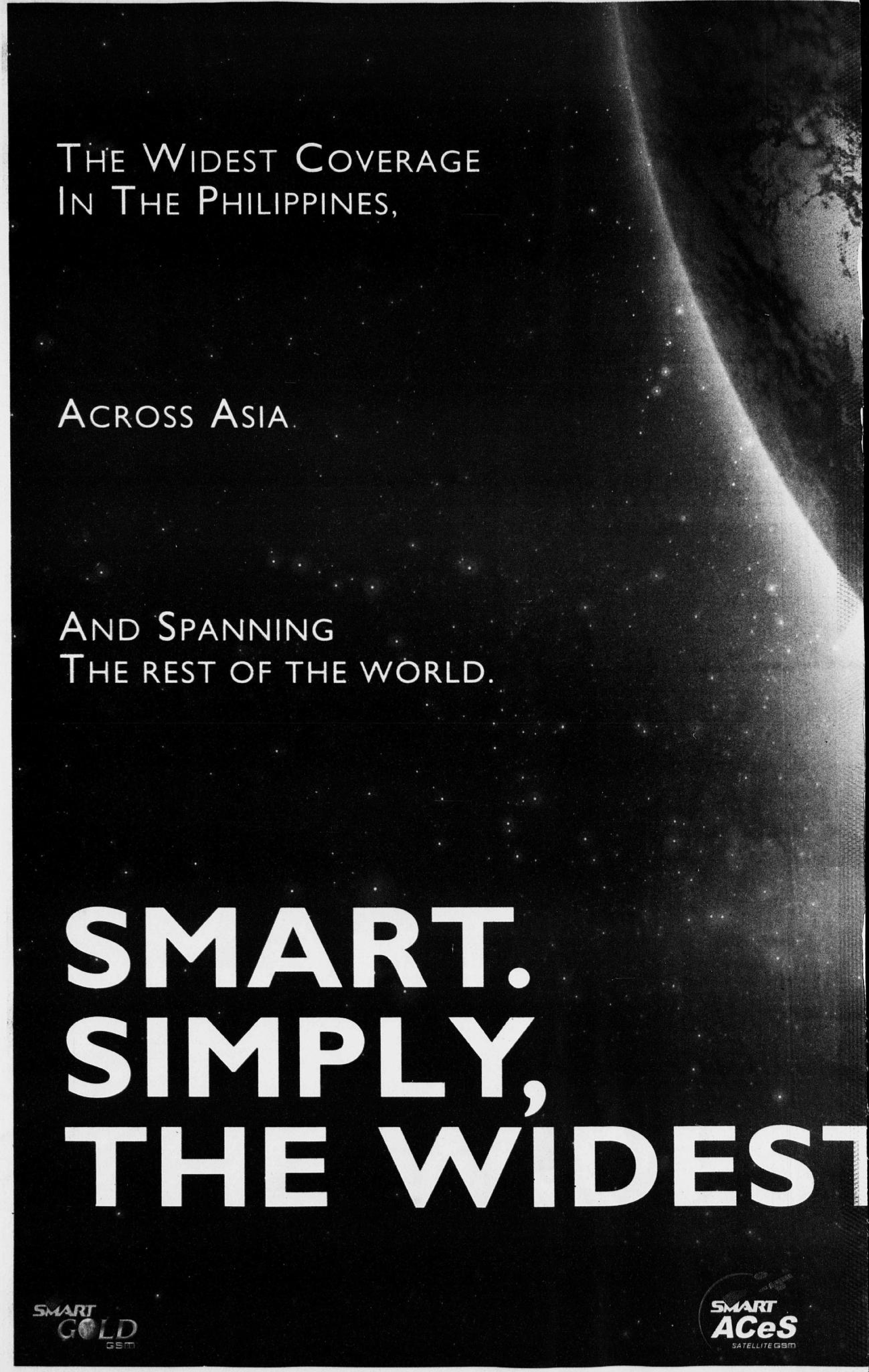
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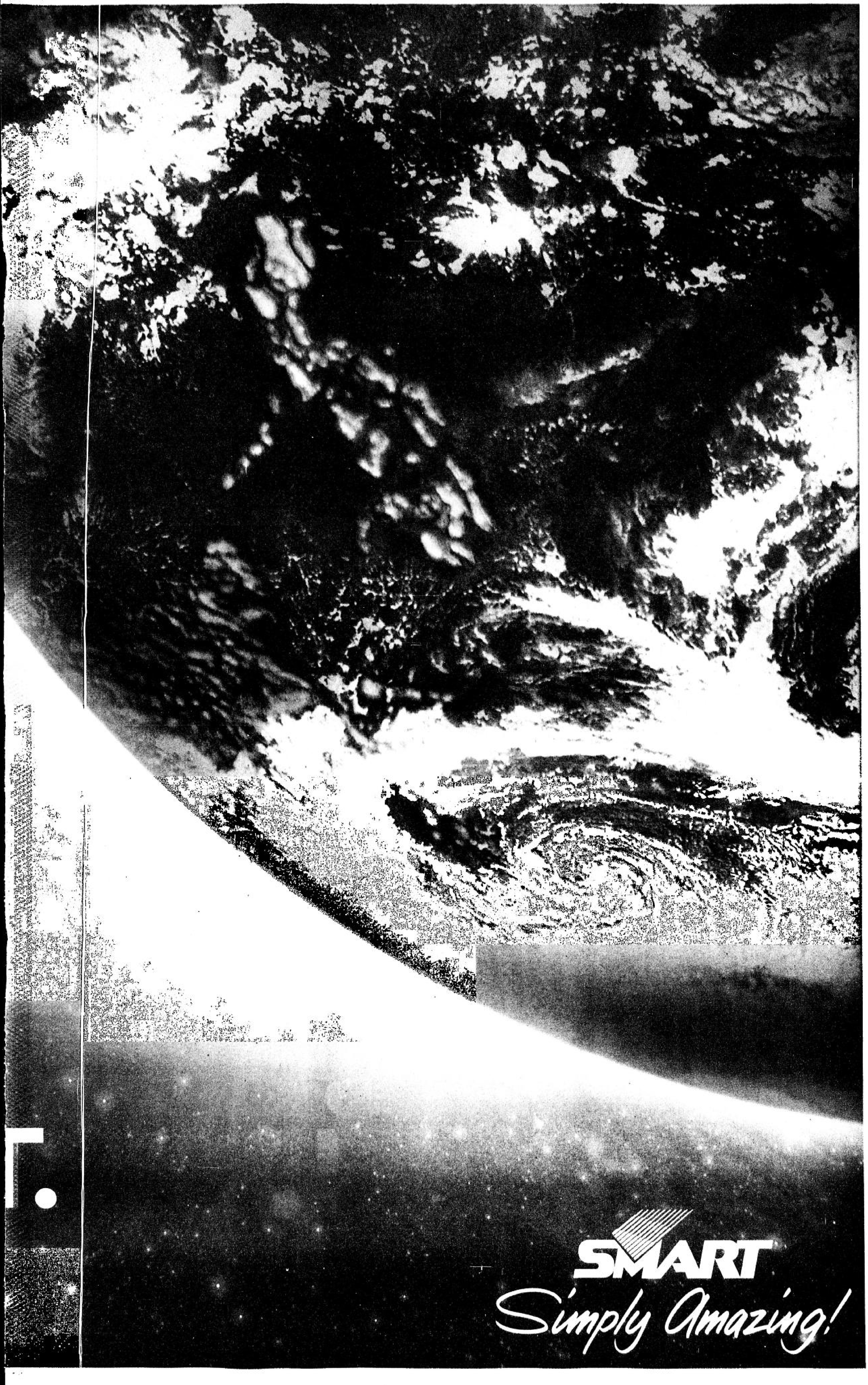

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Dading Ravela, make-up artist emeritus to the stars

BY AGNES DE GUZMAN

DADING Ravela, 71, is virtually unknown to many show biz aficionados, but in Philippine entertainment circles, he is very popular and well loved. In his 40 years as make-up artist, he has enhanced the beauty of the most glamorous actresses in the TV-movie industry.

From Fernando Poe, Jr., Joseph Estrada, Dolphy, Gloria Romero, Lolita Rodriguez, Amalia Fuentes, Susan Roces, and Helen Gamboa, to Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta, Robin Padilla, Cherrie Gil, Hilda Koronel, Dading's list of stars he has worked with is endless.

Best films

He was the make-up artist on some of the best films by the greatest directors in the business, like Gerry de Leon, Lamberto V. Avellana, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal.

"Ang maipagmamalaki ko sa lahat ng make-up artist, *hindi lang apatnapung* director *ang napagdaanan ko na nasa kabilang buhay na,"* he shares.

Dading's career as make-up artist started way back at Clover Theater. But his first break was with Lea Productions.

"Nagsimula pa lang ang Lea Productions noon. *Nangangailangan sila ng* make-up artist, *nag*-apply *ako, ako naman ang napili.* Black and white *pa noon,"* he recalls.

Asked what his first film was, *"Naku, di ko matandaan!,"* he laughs. *"Kaya pag tinatanong ako, sinsabi ko* "Wanted Perfect Mother." *Hindi naman iyon. Para lang bumata ako kaya sinasabi ko iyon. At saka iyon ang unang pelikula ni Lino Brocka."*

Dading fondly recalls the late director. He was not impressed the first time he saw Brocka behind the camera. *"Sabi ko, 'ano ba naman itong* director *na ito, parang hindi ako nagagandahan.' Kinukunan ang* swimming pool, *may lumulutang na bola,"* but when he watched the film and saw that particular scene, *"naiyak ako. Mata*-touch *ka talaga. May ibig sabihin pala iyon.*

"Si Lino, pag di kaya, kinakausap ang artista 'Ito ang hinihiling ko.' Pati kamay mo ituturo kung saan babagsak, paano mo hahawakan ang luha mo. Doon ako bilib kay Lino."

DADING looks back on an eventful 40 years in the movies.

Admiration

As with Brocka, Dading never hides his admiration for the late Ishmael Bernal. *"Napakagaling. Mabait din pero mataray."* He saw talents shake nervously in Bernal's presence.

"Kung ano'ng hinihingi, kailangan ibigay mo. Kahit abutin kayo ng ilang takes, *hindi siya titigil. Huwag mong sabihing* superstar *ka*, pack-up *ang* shooting *pag nainis,"* he grins.

In his long years in the business, Dading cannot help but notice the changes: *"Noon, mas may kapangyarihan ang* director." Unlike today, when the box-office actors have the luxury of choosing their co-actors and directors, "Contract-contract *kasi noon ang mga artista. Pag nagalit ang* director *noon, huwag mong sabihing* Susan Roces *ka* or Amalia Fuentes," he recalls.

Snooky, Gina Alajar, Roderick Paulate—all these former child stars did their first films with Dading as their make-up artist.

Lovable

He fondly recalls Snooky, who at three years old was very cute and lovable. When she arrived on the set of "Wanted: Perfect Mother," *"uupo kaagad iyan sa silya at sasabihing* 'make-up *na*.'"

RAVELA (center) in the '70s with Vilma Santos (in front of him) and other performers in "Lipad, Darna, Lipad."

JENINE Desiderio and Eddie Garcia with Dading.

Roderick Paulate and Gina Alajar were very young when they worked together in "Kaibigan Kong Sto. Niño." Dading remembers very clearly how Roderick cried and refused to shoot everytime he saw Bella Flores, who played the antagonist in the film.

Not everyone knows how the multi-awarded actress, Gina Alajar, started in show biz, but Dading was there when it happened. "*May* contest *para sa mga bata noon. Mga* 800 *ang* sumali *pero* 30 *lang ang piniling* finalist. *Kinulong sila ng* Lea *sa* LVN studio *at ini*-screen test *nina* Armando de Guzman *at* Aling Toreng."

Gina Alajar was not one of the finalists. But as luck would have it, *"Nakapasok sa butas n'ung kuwarto si Gina. Nung interbiyuhin, siya pa ang nanalo,"* he says.

Lea Productions, where Dading worked, was one of the first movie outfits to produce color films. When Tagalog Ilang-ilang productions went color for a party scene, they hired Dading to do the make-up of the actors, specifically Vilma Santos.

DADING with Mikee Cojuangco.

Vilma liked Dading's work so much that she asked her mother to get him as her personal make-up artist. At first, Dading refused the offer but *"Niregaluhan ako ng* TV, *pinahatid sa bahay ko. Nagbiro ako, sabi ko, ba't walang* Frigidaire. The next day, *dineliber sa bahay ko ang* Frigidaire. *Ano pa'ng magagawa ko?"* he grins.

Affection

Dading talks about Vilma with affection. *"Iba si* Vilma, *kahit masama ang loob, pagharap sa tao parang walang nagyari. Napakabait na bata niyan.*

"Noon, pusoy-pusoy kami sa shooting. *Uutusan si* Viring *ni* Vilma, *'Sabihin mo kay Ate* Dading *baka gusto akong ire*-touch.' *Hindi siya katulad ng iba na akala mo kung sino,"* he says.

Vilma Santos is a good dancer. But during her teenage years, she was also asked to do some singing. Dading witnessed how Vilma made up all kinds of alibis so as not to sing.

"Pag magre-recording *na siya, ibig sumama ang pakiramdam. Wala siyang hilig kumanta. Iyung mga* recording company *ang kumukuha at pumipilit sa kanya."*

He worked for Vilma for six years before he decided to freelance again.

Dading had a chance to work with Vilma's rival Nora Aunor on the set of "Sidhi." He was not Nora's make-up artist but *"Nire*-retouch-retouch *ko lang."*

He got the shock of his life when Nora gave him an envelope on their last day of shooting. Inside was P50,000! *"Hindi ako nakatulog. Magdamag akong nagbibilang, baka hindi totoo. Hindi ko alam kung bakit ako binigyan,"* he ponders. *"Siguro dahil wala akong sinasabing masama tungkol sa kanya, kahit noong na kay* Vilma *ako."*

Generous

But actors and actresses have always been very generous with this make-up artist. When his mother died, money kept pouring in. He was able to give his mother a decent burial because of their help.

One of Dading's happiest moments was on his 50th birthday. The king of Philippine movies, Fernando Poe Jr., came to his house to celebrate with him. He had invited FPJ but did not expect him to show up.

"Pinuntahan ko si FPJ *sa* shooting *namin ng* "Kalibre 45." *Sabi ko,* 'Boss, *alam kong hindi ka pupunta kasi kahit kasal di mo pinupuntahan, ako pa kayang* make-up artist *lang. Pero ibibigay ko pa rin ang imbitasyon ko sa una't huling paghahanda ko sa* birthday *ko.*'"

Touched

But the King was touched by his invitation. On Dading's birthday, he packed up the shooting early. Along with his co-stars in the film, he proceeded to Dading's house. He stayed from seven in the evening up to seven a.m. the following day!

Dading has no regrets about his chosen career. The industry has been good to him. "Dading *lang ako, pero tatlong pamangkin ko ang natulungan ko. May naka*-graduate *sa* Chemical Engineering, *isang* Foreign Service *at isang* Architecture. *Lahat sila gusto akong patigilin na dahil kaya na daw nila akong sustentuhan at alagaan, pero malakas pa ko."*

Retiring is not far from Dading's mind. *"Pagod na rin ako, nagsasawa na rin. Mag-iipon lang ako at ipapaayos ko ang bahay ko. Maglalagay ako ng tindahan sa silong para hindi ako manghina,"* he smiles.

Cookie bandits strike again

New Hershey City—Unidentified cookie bandits carted away jarfuls of freshly baked cookies for the second time in two weeks in several dozen homes across the city.

Distraught mothers discovered the latest wave of banditry early yesterday morning. Almost all police outposts throughout New Hershey City received reports early friday morning of cookies vanishing from supposedly secured cookie jars. The huge number of complaints prompted the police chief of New Hershey to order a full-scale investigation on the widespread and mysterious disappearance of freshly baked cookies from hundreds of homes. The official police spokesperson ruled out aliens or giant ants behind the disappearances saying it is too early in the investigation to come up with a solid theory but added, "all leads, preposterous or not, are being explored."

Several mothers whose cookie jars have been emptied recalled having firmly locked their cupboards before going to bed. One mother even swore she set up elaborate high-tech alarm systems around her cupboard to protect her [illegible] full of exotic cookie [illegible] woke up the next [illegible] was left of her expensive cookies were tiny cookie crumbs.

The missing cookies of New Hershey City have spawned a host of theories on who are the culprits behind the disappearance. They range from the scientific, like a magnetic field that attracts the dough used in making cookies, to the downright insane like a deranged clown that was deprived of cookies when he was a child.

Reliable sources revealed that the police are following a vital lead regarding the case. For one, all the households that have lost their cookies also have Hershey's Kisses in their cupboard. Sources said although the police believed the Kisses have something to do with the missing cookies, they have to establish a firmlink.

Meanwhile, some homeowners have begun to organise themselves into groups to patrol the vicinity of their neighbourhoods to prevent such thefts from happening again. In some places, window grilles were seen being installed in several homes while in other parts of the city, sales of guard dogs have gone up. This prompted the office of the mayor to issue a statement urging citizens to remain calm and that situation is under control. The statement added, "It's just a matter of [illegible] before the long arm of the law catches the bandits and hopefully save your cookies returned [illegible] their jars."

[illegible] cookie bandits first [illegible] weeks ago in a s[illegible] southwest of New Hershey. In that incident, two dozen homes awakened to empty cookie jars that were reportedly full the night before. Residents of that community believe the bandits will strike for the third time and advise their fellow citizens to lock away their cookies in a steel vault while the perpetrators are still loose.

"Hey, no pushing."
"Burp!"
COOKIES
KISSES
KISSES
KISSES
Cookies
COOKIES

Cesar Montano still studying ABS-CBN deal

By Edmund L. Sicam

THERE'S been a lot of speculation about whether Cesar Montano will renew his contract with ABS-CBN to appear in the weekly sitcom, "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis." His contract expires in July.

Endorser

We caught up with Cesar at the new RCBC Plaza recently where a bash was held to announce his role as endorser for Mansfield International's Hanford Classic underwear and to launch an exhibit of photographs of Cesar by Ronnie Salvacion. The actor told us that he was still studying the matter, which meant that his manager Norma Japitana and the network had not agreed on Cesar's financial package.

It could also be because Cesar has so many options available to him—more movies, even a singing career. His first album "Subok Lang" did very well. He's gotten so confident about his singing that the day after we talked to him, he was scheduled to do a concert in New York.

As far as his new product endorsement is concerned, it actually started with his wife Sunshine Cruz, who modeled for Hartmann, the ladies' line, even before they got married. When Mansfield owners Mr. and Mrs. Te stood as sponsors at their wedding, the matter of getting Cesar to endorse Hanford came up.

It didn't take long before Cesar signed a contract with the company and that was the reason for the RCBC bash, a social event attended by perennial party animals like David Bunevacz and Jessica Rodriguez, Maurice Arcache and Tina Maristela-Ocampo. Carlos Agassi, who's also a Hanford endorser, was present. So was Bayani Agbayani, Cesar's sidekick in the ABS-CBN sitcom.

The photo exhibit itself showed Cesar engaged in athletic activities, wearing not-so-revealing Hanford products. The main photo has Cesar in very athletic boxer shorts. Incidentally, we asked Cesar if he preferred boxer shorts to briefs. He said he wore boxer shorts to bed but preferred briefs when he was working.

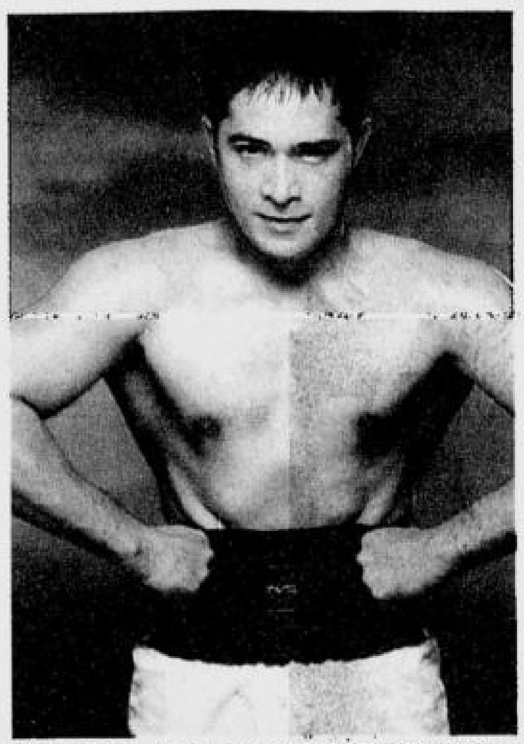
Fighting form

We learned that Cesar went on a strict regimen to get in fighting form for his pictorial, which took just a day to complete. That meant going on a diet so he would look great in boxer shorts. The results can be seen in his exhibit, which is expected to go on a nationwide tour.

We were glad that he didn't look like Arnold Schwarzenegger, bulging with muscles and looking like a contestant for Mr. Universe. Cesar looked like an average person who had taken good care of his body, a body that an ordinary individual can aspire for.

A very pregnant Sunshine Cruz, whose baby is due sometime in September, showed up much later in a loose-fitting but elegant black dress, so as not to compete with Cesar for attention. She was soon talking about, what else, the baby in her womb which, according to ultrasound tests, will be a girl.

They already have a name for the baby, Angelina Isabella. Angelina, because Cesar is fond of the name, while Isabella is after the name of the street in Sta. Ana, where Cesar used to live.



MONTANO. Many career options available to him these days.

We commented that Cesar seemed to play a dominant role in their relationship and Sunshine agreed. For instance, Cesar has stated that if Sunshine came out in a movie, it would have to be directed by him, as well as star him as leading man.

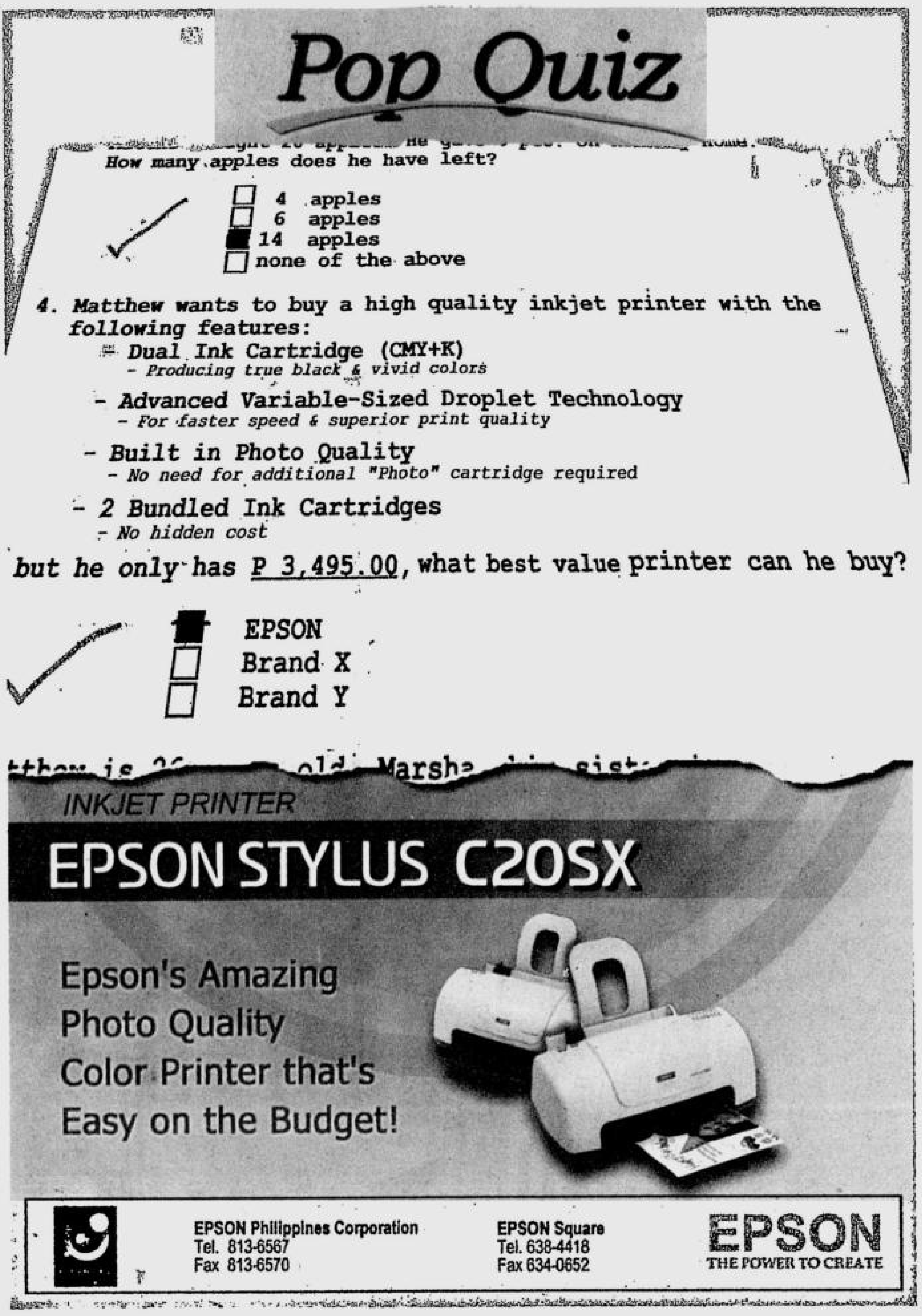
When Sunshine finally delivers the baby, Cesar has made arrangements that only female nurses will be around to assist the obstetrician, who is also female. Also, he doesn't want the baby to stay in the nursery after the delivery, but with Sunshine in her hospital room.

Sunshine seems happy with the arrangement and when we asked her if she'd agree to pose for a magazine the way a pregnant Demi Moore did for Vanity Fair, in the buff, she replied that it was all up to Cesar.

Easy pregnancy

After a difficult first three months, during which she actually lost instead of gained 10 pounds, Sunshine has had an easy pregnancy so far. She looks great for someone who's six months in the family way. The actress shouldn't find it hard to get back to her old form and maybe resume her acting career.

Sunshine admits she misses the klieg lights from time to time and may do occasional TV guestings and another album. This is a lot different from what she said after she got married. Then, she ruled out the possibility about going back to show business. Obviously, times have changed. It's all up to Cesar, of course, but if Sunshine wants it that badly, we don't think Cesar will refuse.



Pop Quiz

How many apples does he have left?

☐ 4 apples
☐ 6 apples
■ 14 apples
☐ none of the above

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- Advanced Variable-Sized Droplet Technology
  - For faster speed & superior print quality
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New breed of Kiss has chocolate cookie bits in DNA

KISSISSIPPI—Researchers at the Kisses Research Institute have come across a new breed of Kisses that packs more chocolate in their internal structure. The discovery is the result of a two-year study that aimed to find out why some Kisses have exhibited a marked change in their appearance which is characterised by a dark brown tint with goldstreaks around their bodies.

According to scientists involved in the study, these Kisses which are now known as Crunchy Cookie Kisses, have a darker chocolate for a body and bits of chocolate cookies inside them. The striking difference from the normal silver Kisses becomes apparent when chocolate lovers taste the Crunchy Cookie Kisses. The new Kisses are found to taste richer and is more playful inside the mouth because of the chocolate cookie bits.

Although the study unravelled the reason why a Crunchy Cookie Kiss looks and tastes different form the silver Kiss, it hasn't answered how its structure suddenly mutated to become more chocolate.

The sudden appearance of Crunchy Cookie Kisses came as a surprise for many chocolate lovers. No one knows where they came from and they came in such huge numbers. Leading scientists have put forth several theories on their origins, from the idea of mutant Kisses to a simple genetic aberration. So far, all have yet to be verified. Among the more popular theories is the Dormant Chocolate Gene Theory.

According to this theory, a single silver Kiss has been carrying a strand of DNA that has more chocolate in it. This strand has been dormant in the silver Kisses' biological lineage for generations until it married a chocolate cookie. Because of the chocolate cookie's big number of chocolate DNA, the resulting offspring has been blessed with a darker, richer structure.

The theory would have amply explained the origin of the Crunchy Cookie Kiss except those Crunchy Cookie Kisses appeared so suddenly and in huge quantities. One theory suggests that these Crunchy Cookie Kisses are actually the lost tribes of Kissrael. Scientists point to the vast, unexplored regions of Hersheya as the possible habitat of these lost Kisses tribes. The prolonged isolation of Crunchy Cookie Kisses from the world of the silver Kiss allowed them to evolve into Kisses with more chocolate in them to counter the more discriminating chocolate lovers in those regions of Hersheya. However, the theory hit a snag because if the Crunchy Cookie Kisses are really the lost tribes of Kissrael, they must speak ancient Hershew. But their language is pure, modern Hershish—the language of the silver Kiss.

Until now, researchers are still looking for clues on their origins but so far, they have faced a blank wall.

Stephen Hershing, a leading astrophysicist and author of the best-selling book, "A Brief Hershtory of Time," is putting forth the most radical theory of all. He thinks that Crunchy Cookie Kisses are actually the offspring of extra-terrestrials and earth bound silver Kisses. He points out their sudden appearance in huge numbers and the high concentration of chocolate DNA in their structure as evidence of an alien lineage. He says only alien Kisses have the capacity to breed so rapidly and to evolve to become morechocolate in such a short time.

Critics have cautioned Hershing on putting forth such a radical theory, warning him of mass hysteria and the total breakdown of chocolate dogma. But Hershing countered that on the contrary, chocolate lovers would have a deeper understanding of the chocolate universe, knowing fully well that there's a different kind of Kiss somewhere out there. He added that learning that the silver Kiss is not alone after all, makes chocolate lovers in tune and one with the universe.

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Chocolate cookie bits in milk chocolate.
Crunchy Cookie Kiss.

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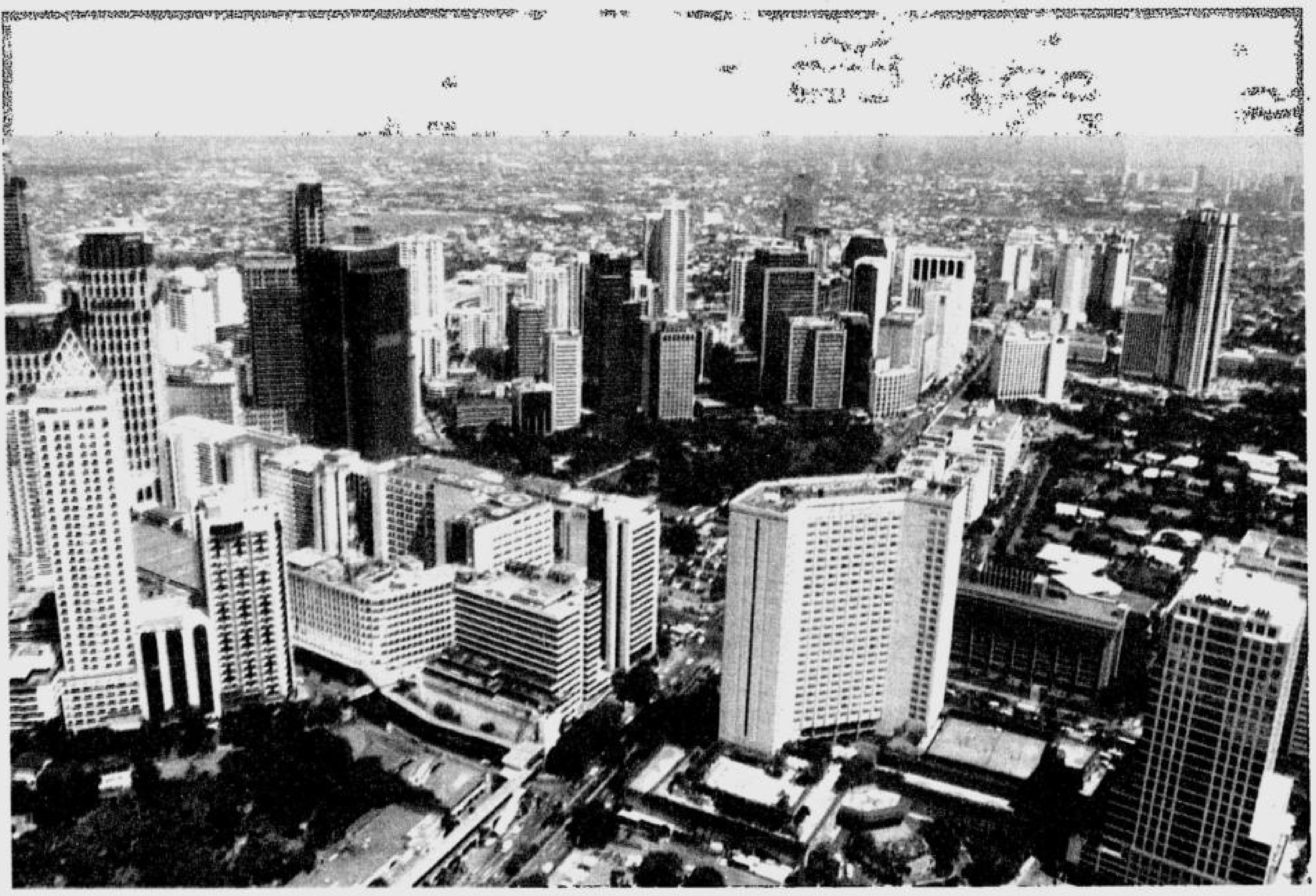

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SaturdaySPECIAL

GUILLEN. Has gone beyond directing women's pictures.

Women directors come into their own

By Nestor U. Torre

BERNAL. Started working in films as an editor.

In the Philippines, women filmmakers direct some of the biggest hits ('Jose Rizal,' 'Tanging Yaman') and win top awards

PRETTY much lost in the big mess of scandals and conflicts on the local film scene is one very encouraging development: at no time in our movie history have we had as many women directors making films than today.

They are Laurice Guillen, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Olive Lamasan, Rory Quintos and Joyce Bernal.

Even more significantly, these five filmmakers are among the best we have. Unlike some female directors abroad, they aren't limited to making melodramas for women, but direct movies that are patronized by male viewers as well.

Noteworthy

Most impressive is the fact that *all* of our women directors are actively making movies this year. This is noteworthy because the local industry's film output has gone down so much (we may end up making less than 70 movies this film year) that there are only around 20 directors actually being hired to make movies these days.

The fact that five of those 20 are women is most significant, indeed. It shows that, unlike even the American movie industry, our women directors are in the mainstream rather than the periphery of feature-film activity.

DIAZ-ABAYA (left), now shooting film on conflict in Mindanao.

There *are* quite a number of women making movies in the States, but most of the films they direct are small independent productions that generally don't make major waves at the box office, or figure strongly in awards competitions.

Biggest hits

In the Philippines, women filmmakers direct some of the biggest hits ("Jose Rizal," "Tanging Yaman") and win top awards.

This is a big change from the past, when women directors numbered only two or three at a time, or were even completely inactive. How did this heartening change come about?

Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Laurice Guillen started their directing careers on their own. Their careers flourished because they kept coming up with interesting movies. Their early films *were* women's pictures, but they have now risen above that limited and limiting purview.

Nurtured

Olivia Lamasan and Rory Quintos are products of the "Star Cinema 'school' of filmmaking"—meaning, they were nurtured by that studio and have made all of their films for it.

There is an occasional symbiosis of between "schools" going on here, since Guillen, for instance, also makes movies for Star Cinema (her "Tanging Yaman" is one of its biggest hits).

Finally, Joyce Bernal started as a film editor (for Toto Natividad) before she turned director with a number of light, breezy, youth-oriented movies that have done well at the box office. She also makes films for Star Cinema.

Careers

So, while only Lamasan and Quintos are exclusive to the studio, it can be said that Star Cinema has also helped nurture the careers of other women directors, by financing some of their most interesting projects.

We must add that we have another talented director in Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, who some years ago came up with a number of noteworthy films. Unfortunately, she now lives in the United States, and her local filmmaking forays are all too infrequent.

It would be great if Lupita would make new movies to add to the impressive output of Diaz-Abaya, Guillen, Lamasan, Quintos and Bernal. That would make 2001 an even more eventful film year than it already promises to be, since all five of our women directors are making interesting movies this year. *(To be concluded)*

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TOKYO TOKYO Great Great Japanese

Anino shadow plays create enlightenment and enchantment

By Noelani Torre

THE AUDIENCE is restless, shifting in their seats and shooting politely impatient looks at the square of white cloth mounted on the stage. The screen is as blank as their faces and one can almost hear the thoughts running through their heads. (Shadow play? Kid's stuff. I'll probably be bored to death . . .etc.) Then the lights dim and darkness settles. The show begins.

Brilliant colors

The screen comes suddenly to life in a riot of brilliant colors as the upbeat tune of a Joey Ayala song sounds forth from the speakers. The audience gasps, leans forward, and is lost. All thoughts of boredom are banished as they drink in the sights of dancers' graceful silhouettes against a backdrop of swirling blues and reds, exploding stars, and dancing mushrooms.

They become the newest visitors to an enthralling world, a world created by the Anino Shadow Play Collective.

Composed mainly of alumni of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) now students and graduates of the University of the Philippines in Diliman (UP), Anino was formally established in 1992, but the concept itself dates further back.

"There has always been shadow play at the PHSA," says founding member Rolando "Biboy" Royong. "It wasn't part of the curriculum, just something we did to entertain ourselves when we got bored in the evenings, and when there were brownouts."

Eventually their "productions" became more and more intricate and the school soon included shadow play in the visual arts curriculum. The company itself was originally conceptualized by visual artists Alwin Reamillo and Bernie Semolina and theater artist Junivic Andrion.

First break

The group's first break came in 1993 when the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) Outreach Program gave them a grant for a nationwide tour. They rocked major towns and cities across the country with shadow plays accompanied by the comic Pinoy songs of Yoyoy Villame, Joey Ayala and Edru Abraham. It was then that the company's future thrust began to materialize—educating while entertaining.

ANINO Shadow Play Collective members at their studio.

"We like the form of shadow play because it's spontaneous and relatively inexpensive," explains Biboy. "All of our members are young and energetic, *hindi takot mag*-experiment."

Anino has developed at least five repertoires composed of songs and vignettes. Their pieces are always grounded in the here and now—environmental and satirical social commentaries that are nevertheless open-ended, leaving question marks in the minds of the audience that they must answer themselves.

Watching an Anino shadow play is a sensuous experience. It's as if one is submerged in a pool of shifting and teasing colors and shadows. The images on the screen change from surreal mistiness to sharp realism in a matter of seconds.

Astounding effects

It's like watching an MTV, only better. Because, in this case, what one sees is not recorded but live, and they don't need sophisticated technology (plus the cash one needs to acquire this) to achieve their astounding effects.

"We use found objects, says Biboy. "Things you pick up *sa tabi-tabi*—like cellophane scraps, plastic bottles, even an old rubber slipper."

They use just about anything that can create interesting colors and shadows. As a result, the images they project are almost tactile and seem to have more depth.

They create their own puppets, which range in size from two inches to two feet, and they also incorporate live dancers and actors. The tools of their trade are numerous and diverse, simple and complicated. The primary light source is an overhead projector, but they also use candles, flashlights, and video and slide projectors.

Take a peek behind the screen while a show is going on and you will see an environment of controlled chaos. Color wheels are taped to the walls; magnifying glasses, prisms, marbles, and bottles filled with colored water clutter around the projectors; sheets of acetate and puppets are stacked in the corners and under tables. And they work in darkness, too.

Tension

Still, underlying the tension and nerves that come with every performance, is the irrepressible spirit of play. These people are having fun, they enjoy what they do. And this feeling comes across to their viewers, who laugh at their antics and give them standing ovations when the show is over.

Anino wows audiences here and abroad. They have performed at the Museo Pambata, the Folk Arts Theater, Glorietta, Adarna House, Casa San Miguel, Taiwan, and Greece. They have performed with such noted artists as Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata, Joey Ayala, Noel Cabangon;, Grace Nono, Robert Alejandro, Myra Beltran and Beth Parocha-Doctolero. They have also performed with rock bands Razorback and Wolfgang and the world music group, Makiling Ensemble.

Their most recent project is "Ibalon," a 90-minute rendition of the Bicolano myth, which they showed a few months back at the Museo Pambata and two weeks ago in Patras, Greece, where they represented the Philippines in the 1st International Festival of Shadow Theater.

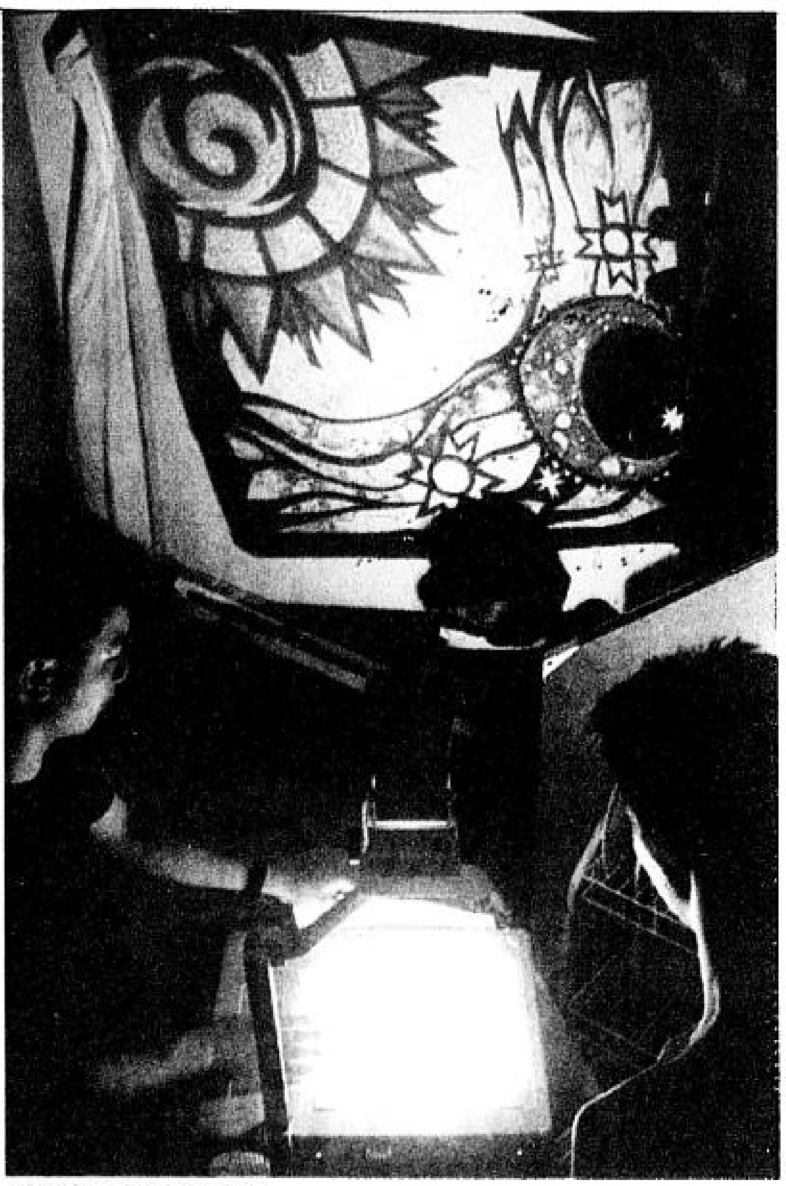
"Ibalon" is the group's first full-length feature. Directed be Don Salubayba, the libretto was written by Kerima Tariman and the music composed by Melecio Yamomo Jr.

It tells the story of the land of Ibalon (now the Bicol region), a place beset by volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, and greedy monsters intent on grabbing everything from the people. Then come the three heroes to the rescue—Baltog, Handyong, and Bantong. They slay the monsters and, more importantly, teach the people to till the earth and improve their lives.

Alternative

"We offer them," says director Don Salubayba, "as an alternative to all those anime and Hollywood superheroes. Here our definition of heroism has to do with leadership and organizational skills, not just super powers and magic swords." And, as in most of their works, they also inserted a great bit of socially relevant issues.

"We wanted to emphasize, says Biboy, "that the three major *halimaws* in 'Ibalon' are still here today. They are the foreigners and the land-grabbing upperclass who want everything for themselves. They are the corrupt government officials who fill their own pockets instead of helping their constituents. They are the big companies that pollute the environment."



ANINO artists at work.

Musical director Melecio Yamomo recounts the international crowd's reaction to their showing of "Ibalon" in Greece: "I think they were awed," he muses. "When they watched the other shows they only looked mildly interested and they were a bit noisy. But when they watched 'Ibalon' they were really, really silent.

Like magic

After the show they told us that they were 'shocked.' One said it was 'very clever' and another said it was 'like magic.' I guess they didn't expect what we showed them."

Melecio was one of the five members of Anino who represented the group in Greece. The others were Don Salubayba, Marc Cosico, Datu Arellano, and Charms Callejo, all in their early 20s.

Aside from their shadow plays themselves, what makes this young and dynamic group stand out is their dedication, coupled with the sheer enjoyment that they have for their work. "Passionate play," they call it. A combination that never ceases to enchant and to enlighten.

US scriptwriters clinch landmark deal

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

(Conclusion)

TO MOST screenwriters in the Philippines, the term "residual" is unheard of. Paging the SGP, again.

But WGA's fight to gain respect for writers did not end with money alone. As important as the economic consideration are the critical creative issues. In these areas, the Guild also achieved several victories:

The writer will now be considered as part of the production. He/She will be listed on call sheets, staff directories or crew lists; will attend premieres, press junkets, festivals and cast and crew events. Writers will have enhanced presence in press kits, electronic press kits and DVDs.

The companies, for the first time, agreed that the industry standard will be that writers will be present at cast readings and have the right to visit the set of the motion picture they have written.

Creative issues

Shortly after a director is assigned to a project, he or she will meet with the writer to discuss creative issues. This meeting will take place prior to any decision to hire a new writer.

All these are expected to begin a process that will, over time, change the culture of filmmaking and enhance the collaborative process for writers, directors and all of the artists that contribute their craft to the final film.

Humbly, WGA acknowledged it couldn't achieve that goal without the active participation of the Directors Guild—thus, the proposed establishment of a join WGA/DGA Creative Rights Committee that will discuss creative issues of mutual concern.

However, the "vanity issue" or the possessory credit issue has not been resolved. To avert a crippling strike that would hurt the entire industry, the Writers Guild agreed to tackle this issue, as well as the proliferation of producer credits and other credits issues, in separate industry-wide discussions.

Collaboration

Meanwhile, the Writers Guild and the Directors Guild have agreed to foster writer-director collaboration in both film and television, including: hosting joint seminars in which collaborators discuss their working relationships and highlighting collaboration in their respective publications.

The tentative agreement was signed May 4 and was unanimously approved and recommended by the WGA's Board of Directors last May 8, 2001. Finally, an overwhelming 92 percent of the total voting members of WGA ratified the deal last June 5, 2001. Now, WGA members can rightfully claim the title of being "the most respected film and television writers in the world!"

Mabuhay ang Writers Guild of America!

Is a Manila satellite-branch possible? You guys can call it WGA-Far East! This early, I can see the looong line of Pinoy film and TV writers beating a path to your doorsteps. They won't mind shelling out a thousand pesos or two for membership fee if you can duplicate at least 10 percent of your Guild's negotiating success here.

So, whaddaya say?

Jet Li goes back to the basics

FOR years, Jet Li has thrilled movie audiences—first in Hong Kong, then around the world—with his martial and acrobatic skills. After bursting on to the Hollywood scene with his English-language debut, "Lethal Weapon 4" and the box-office hit "Romeo Must Die," Li was ready to tackle an even more ambitious project.

Heroics

He envisioned a dramatic film that combined his trademark martial arts and action heroics with strong, recognizable characters.

Jet Li joins forces with visionary filmmaker Luc Besson ("The Professional," "The Fifth Element") on his latest film, the action-thriller "Kiss of the Dragon."

Li plays Liu Jiuan, China's top government agent, who arrives in Paris from Shanghai to carry out a sensitive, top-secret mission. The mission goes horribly wrong, as the man Liu had come to help, betrays him.

Trapped in a deadly conspiracy and width nowhere to turn, Liu is thrown together with an American woman, Jessica (Bridget Fonda). As Jessica and Liu go up against the cunning and ruthless adversary who set their respective traps in motion, Liu makes a promise to Jessica that could compromise his career—and even his life.

Li came up with the idea of a government agent who, despite enormous proficiency and skills, becomes lost in a physical and moral landscape he can't comprehend.

Human

"I wasn't interested in making a movie about a big action hero who saves the day," Li explains. "My character, Liu Jiuan, is one of China's best agents, with tremendous abilities in martial arts and acupuncture. He's determined and driven But he's *not* a superman; he's human. When his mission goes wrong, Liu initially doesn't know how to handle things."

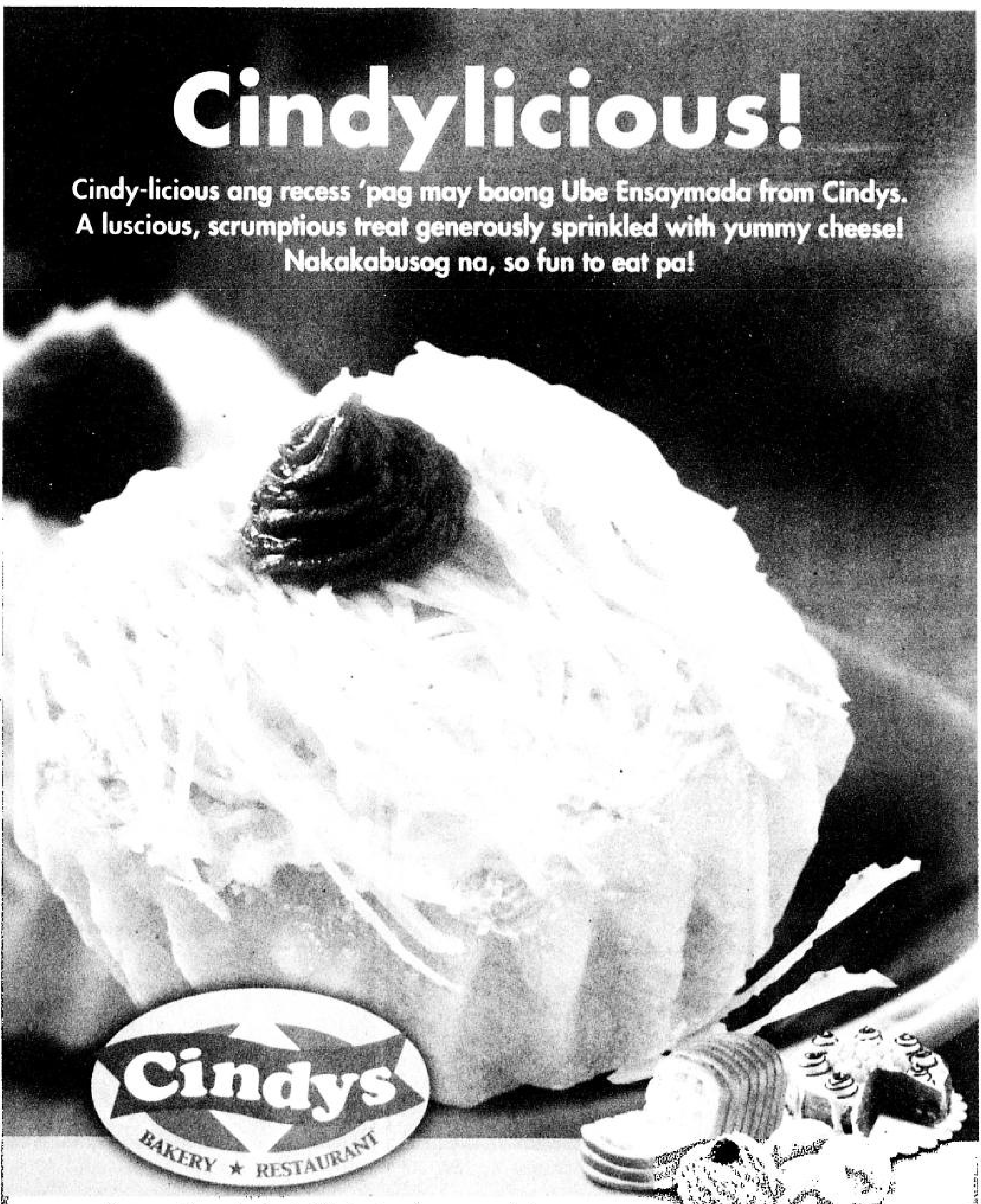
When Liu meets Jessica, things become even more complicated. "My character doesn't know how to deal with her," Li comments.

"At first he finds her annoying, then he pities her; finally he decides to help her. But his government won't let him. So does he keep his word or follow orders?

"For the first time, Liu has to take care of someone else, and be more than a fighter. He finally grows up.

"Of course, he also finds himself in a lot of action and fights," Li quickly adds with a smile.

For the film's high-powered fight scenes, Li brought on a team headed by his longtime collaborator Cory Yuen, who serves as "Kiss of the Dragon's" action director.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Bob Dylan at 60

BY DAX A. COBARRUBIAS

MAY 24 marked the 60th birthday of Bob Dylan, one of the most influential figures in rock and roll. Surfacing from the folk Mecca of Greenwich Village at the time when "Beatlemania" was on a worldwide blitzkrieg assault, Dylan changed the way songs were written.

Poetry

Injecting his poetry, he lifted music to a higher level of awareness. Dylan was the first alternative musician to reach the mainstream.

The Beatles created pop music: melodic rockabilly songs that had universal acceptability, crafting an image that everyone emulated and starting the marketing machine of merchandising, movies and cartoons.

Dylan was the anti-Beatle: his songs brought music back to its basics. Created simply with a guitar and a harmonica, his were the first protest songs released to a wide audience. A cerebral mixture of social commentary and dead-on portrayal of life, it was music for people to think to. He sang off-key, giving the impression that one could be a successful musician while being vocally challenged and having a vagabond appearance.

He was armed with only words to sing. If the Beatles were an escape from what was happening around the world (Beatlemania started shortly after JFK's assassination), a reclamation of the good life everyone was grasping for, Dylan was society's reality check.

He spoke of two things: 1) The world is not OK, and 2) Now is the best time to do something about it.

Curse

"The line it is drawn, the curse it is cast/the slow one now will later be fast and the present now will later be past/the order is rapidly fading/and the first one now will later be last for the times they are a-changin'—"The Times They are A-Changin'"—1963

Born Robert Zimmerman in 1941, he changed his last name to Dylan (after the poet Dylan Thomas) when he started playing in the coffeehouses of Greenwich Village. When introduced by Joan Baez at the Newport Folk Festival in 1963, Dylan experienced immediate success.

In him, society found a messenger—someone who could tell the world what it had wanted to hear for a long time, someone who had the wisdom to articulate it and the courage to sing it.

Parents were initially outraged by his nasal voice and unorthodox singing and were further angered upon hearing his lyrics. This reaction was a result of fear—for the young man of 22 sang powerful words that could inspire millions of young people into action.

The world was being thrown into chaos (racial segregation) the Vietnam War, World War III paranoia) and Dylan was anointed its spokesperson.

DYLAN. Lifted music to a higher level of awareness.

Ironically, Dylan didn't want any of this. According to him, he had no message for the people; he was merely writing songs. (Pearl Jam and Nirvana would later revisit this attitude of rejecting fame and success during the grunge movement of the early '90s).

Refusing this public blessing, Dylan changed the pace of his fourth album: "Another Side of Bob Dylan" (1964), to reveal his softer side.

"Go lightly from the ledge babe, go lightly from the ground/I 'm not the one you want babe, I'll only let you down/You say you're looking for someone who promise never to part/. . . Someone who will die for you and more/But it ain't me Babe, it ain't me you're looking for Babe"–
"It Ain't Me Babe"—1964

New message

Dylan now had a new message: to tell his fans that he was not their savior; it was not his intention to be a prophet. The fans listened, but he didn't get the response he wanted. Not only was he still *the voice of the people*, the record elevated him to rock-star status.

Touring all over America and Europe with an acoustic guitar and a barrage of harmonicas, which he would interchangeably switch between songs on a metal contraption attached to his collarbone, Dylan's transformation from simple folk singer to rock star is perfectly captured in the documentary "Don't Look Back." Filmed in 1965, this was to be his last acoustic tour. We see the simple man receiving a Beatles-esque reception upon arrival in London; we also see his fans. Though they were sedated, keeping silent for his two-hour concerts and politely clapping after every song, they would mob him after the show.

The film also lets the audience witness Dylan getting drunk, throwing tantrums and berating the press. He refused to interpret his songs to Time magazine and reiterated that he wrote for no one—it was the public who decided what the songs meant.

A science student, who wanted to interview Dylan for his school paper, would feel the bard's wrath when he intruded during some pre-performance jitters. "Why should I care about you?" he shouted at Chris Ellis, who years later would be inspired by this hostile meeting to form the successful label Chrysalis (Chris + Ellis) Records.

(To be concluded)

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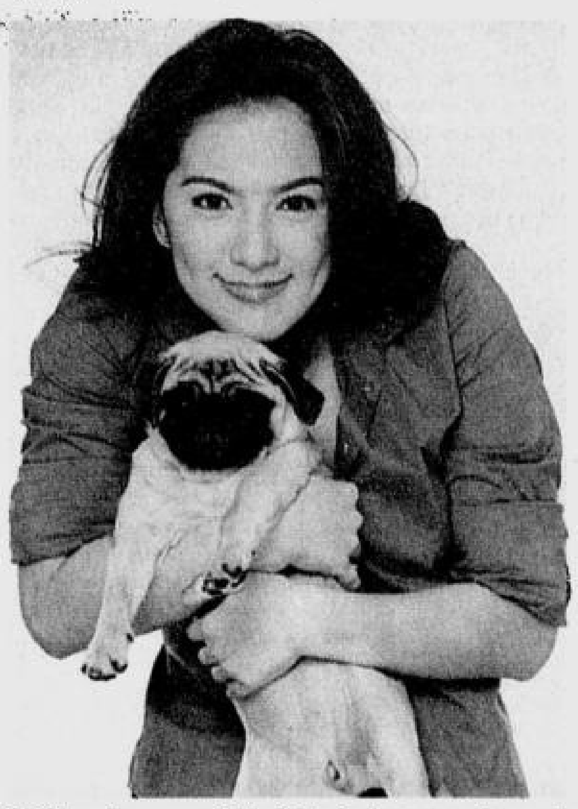


ARA MINA. There's a special twinkle in her eyes these days.

Singing is finally loving Ara Mina back

By Jocelyn Valle

SEXY star Ara Mina loves to sing. "First love *ko* 'yan," she beams, her bright yellow shirt (worn with black pants) emphasizing her sunny disposition. "It's my outlet when I'm lonely or bored. *Hindi mahilig kumanta ang* family *ko pero na*-influence *ko sila. Madalas kasi akong magpasama sa kanila, pati* driver *ko, sa mga* videoke bars."

Glee club

When she was younger, Ara didn't take any voice lessons but she made it a point to join her school's glee club. "*Noong* Grade 2 or Grade 3 *ako*," she recalls, chuckling, "*pinilit ko ang* teacher *ko na isali ako sa* singing contest *sa* school *kahit meron na kaming* representative."

She further remembers performing one of Madonna's earliest hits, "Crazy For You." "*Alam ko, pumiyok ako*," Ara shakes her head, adding that she still was able to finish her piece—unmindful of the audience's negative reaction. "*Kulang na lang, i*-boo *ako*!"

Fourteen years later, singing is finally loving Ara Mina back. Her self-titled debut album surprisingly sold a lot of copies, prompting her bosses at Star Records to sign her for a follow-up. The result is "Heavenly," which showcases Ara's versatility. She tackles different music genres from ballads and pop, to dance and Latin.

Carrier single

"Heavenly" has generated a lot of attention with its carrier single, "Oops...Teka Lang!" not only because it was used in the Robin Padilla-Claudine Barretto starrer of the same title, but also because of some naughty words and images. Ara, however, is quick to refute the change that her song is indecent.

The singer-actress would rather focus on the latest single from her sophomore recording, "Ngayong Wala Ka Na" —a girl's ode to her man, who's falling out of love with her. Ara exposes her vulnerable side as she breathes life into the sentimental tune.

The most personal cut in "Heavenly," though, is Ara's own composition (written with the help of hitmaker Vehnee Saturno), "I'll Never Forget." The song's refrain, she shares, has been in her mind since she was 15 years old.

"*Pero hindi ko siya matapos*," she sighs. "Everytime *na may bisita kami, kinakanta ko 'yan. Tinutukso nga ako ng mga kapatid ko kasi hindi ko raw matapos*."

Now, Ara's whole family fondly smiles with her as they hear "I'll Never Forget." The story behind that song is truly heartwarming. "I was able to finish the song after six years, when I finally met my dad (Quezon City councilor-elect Chuck Mathay, who also sings)," she intones.

Nine siblings

"Heavenly" is how Ara describes her life now, thus the title of the album. "*Kahit wala akong* boyfriend," she grins, "*sobra-sobrang pagmamahal ang natatanggap ko*" (from her two families, who have given her a total of nine siblings).

No wonder there's a special twinkle in Ara's eyes these days, making both her hectic showbiz schedule and crazy celebrity headaches more bearable. She's a regular on Channel 7's sitcom, "Kiss Muna," and the gag show, "Bubble Gang." And though she's invaded the recording scene, Ara's not abandoning her movie career. She'd like to be a singer-actress just like her idol, Sharon Cuneta.

For her next film assignment, Ara hopes that it'll be the movie version of "Kailan Ka Magiging Akin," whose theme song, of course, she'll be singing. She can also pen a few tunes for the film's soundtrack.

Advice

She's taking Saturno's advice seriously. "*Sabi niya, magdala raw ako parati ng* tape recorder," she explains. "When inspiration hits me, I can hum it into the recorder." After completing "I'll Never Forget," she adds, she got the "courage" to write more songs. "*Sa* title *muna ako nag-i*-start," she details the first step in her songwriting process.

And for her next album, "*Me birit na sana*!" she enthuses, relating that she did a pretty good rendition of Regine Velasaquez's version of "Sana Maulit Muli" at a videoke bar recently and the crowd was impressed.

A warm thank you from Senator Kiko and Sharon

By Remy M. Umerez

SENATOR-ELECT Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan and his megastar wife Sharon recently tendered a small victory party at Cabalen for entertainment reporters to thank them for the support they gave him in the last elections. There were prizes galore and other surprises. As they say in show biz lingo, "*walang umuwi ng luhaan.*"

Letter

More importantly, we got to talk with the couple about various things. Kiko expressed his thanks in a letter attached to a gift basket. In parts, it stated:

"The past nine months have been a life-changing experience for me and my beloved wife. There is no doubt that the admiration and affection you have for my dearest Sharon gave me more than my fair share of your attention. I make this vow now: I will prove worthy of your trust and your hope. I will work hard to make a difference in the lives of our people, and I will be a good senator.

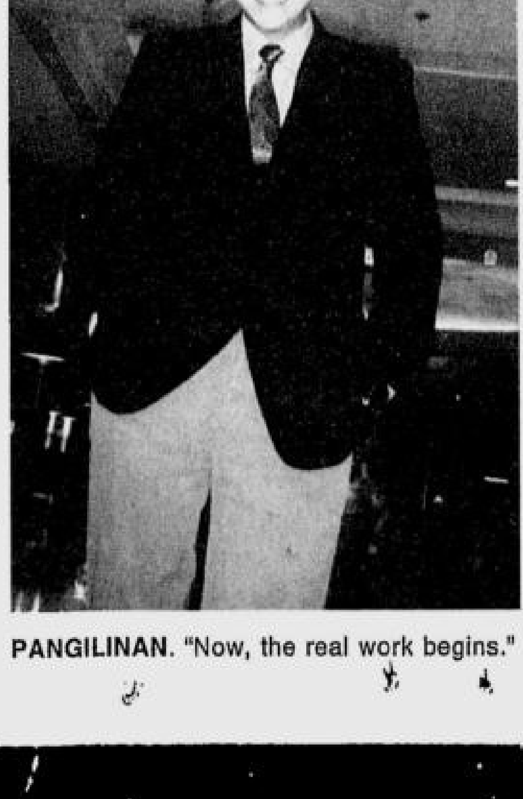
"Now, the real work begins. We cannot do this alone. We need your help. Hence, the call, *Kumilos kasama si* Kiko. It is our hope that you will work with us for the sake of our country and our children."

Victory

Asked to comment on her husband's victory, Sharon said: "My husband has good intentions *at ang gusto talaga niya*, all eyes would be on him *para bantayan siya ng publiko kung tama at makatwiran and kanyang ginagawa*. I am always at his side to constantly remind him to make true his promises to the millions of people who voted for him. *Ako ang numero uno niyang taga-bantay.*"

We asked Sharon how much liberty she has given her daughter KC in entering show business. KC is shooting a commercial for a garment firm for which she is reportedly being paid a handsome fee. She will also portray the role of Sapphire in the stage musical, "Little Mermaid."

"I allowed her to do the commercial because she is now on vacation. I said yes to Trumpets because the company instills professionalism and good discipline. Also, KC loves to sing. She is not keen on acting, and I thank God for that. When classes at International School resume this September, KC has to concentrate on her studies once more."



PANGILINAN. "Now, the real work begins."

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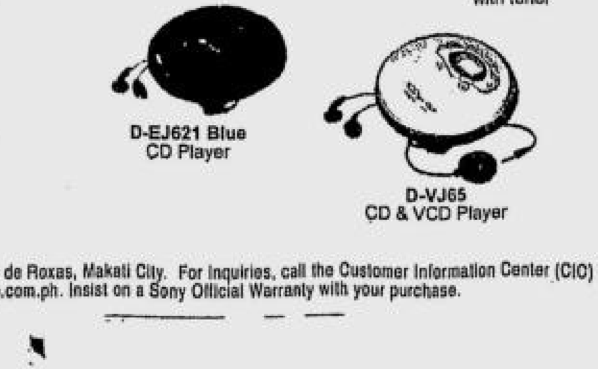
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Sisqo unleashes his musical fury once more

By Ricky T. Gallardo

SISQO. Magical emotions.

LAST year, a naughty composition called "Thong Song" zoomed to the top of the charts and created a major music buzz for then struggling R&B artist Sisqo.

Immediate attention

Culled from his album "Unleash The Dragon," the song got immediate attention with its irreverent take on girls who like wearing those skimpy butt-hugging thongs, buoyed by an equally talked-about video.

It rocketed high but was not to be Sisqo's biggest hit. A few months after, a bigger single from the same album called "Incomplete" eclipsed this feat.

The ballad, which ranked *numero uno* on both sides of the Atlantic, not only cemented Sisqo's bid for the Best R&B male vocalist of the year in major music award-giving derbies but also earned him the moniker "Dragon" among his peers and fans.

So what does a "dragon" do after unleashing a one-two punch? He returns, of course, bigger and fiercer than ever. In his new album "Return Of the Dragon" released under MCA Universal, Sisqo explains why he thinks he's got more fire to spew this time.

"The new album is definitely stronger than 'Unleash' because it invokes a lot of magical emotions. Kinda like flying. In my first album, the only thing that really gave you a gist of Sisqo was the 'Thong Song.' This time, I feel like a whole different person and I made sure it shows on the new songs," he said.

Total departure

And what better proof than the new single "Can I Live?" A hard-hitting, heart-stomping dance tune, it's a total departure from the kind of songs he has been identified with. Sisqo claimed that though he went into the studio "with nothing in mind," he came out with "a live, breathing dragon."

"My inspiration for 'Return' was the dragon himself, Bruce Lee. I think he was a phenomenal martial artist who had to pay his dues before he got recognized—very much like me! When I first stepped on the scene, everyone was like 'Yeah, he's cool. But he's just another R&B kid. He'll be gone tomorrow.' But then 'Thong Song' was released and it became a big pop success."

If in the former album Sisqo worked with famed producer Dru Hill, this time he opted to trek out on his own, with some help from underground acts like Lov-her and The Associates. Though he realizes that in this "connection-must" industry, no singer can take all the credit by himself, he wants to chart his own destiny by his songs' own merits.

"When you do it alone, you're out there on your own. If you fail, you fail alone and if you win, you win by yourself. Well... not necessarily by yourself. When you win you're never alone but when you lose, you're *always* alone! I guess I just didn't want to give my critics a chance to pin my success on any one particular reason," he intoned.

Encouraging

So far, feedback from people in the know who've heard the album is pretty encouraging. If record sales are a gauge, the new album is set to debut in the Top 10 and should propel Sisqo back into the charts without much effort and hype.

Not leaving anything to chance, however, the R&B artist plans to work hard to further fuel his zooming star, plotting for a world tour on the side when he's not busy concocting new dance steps.

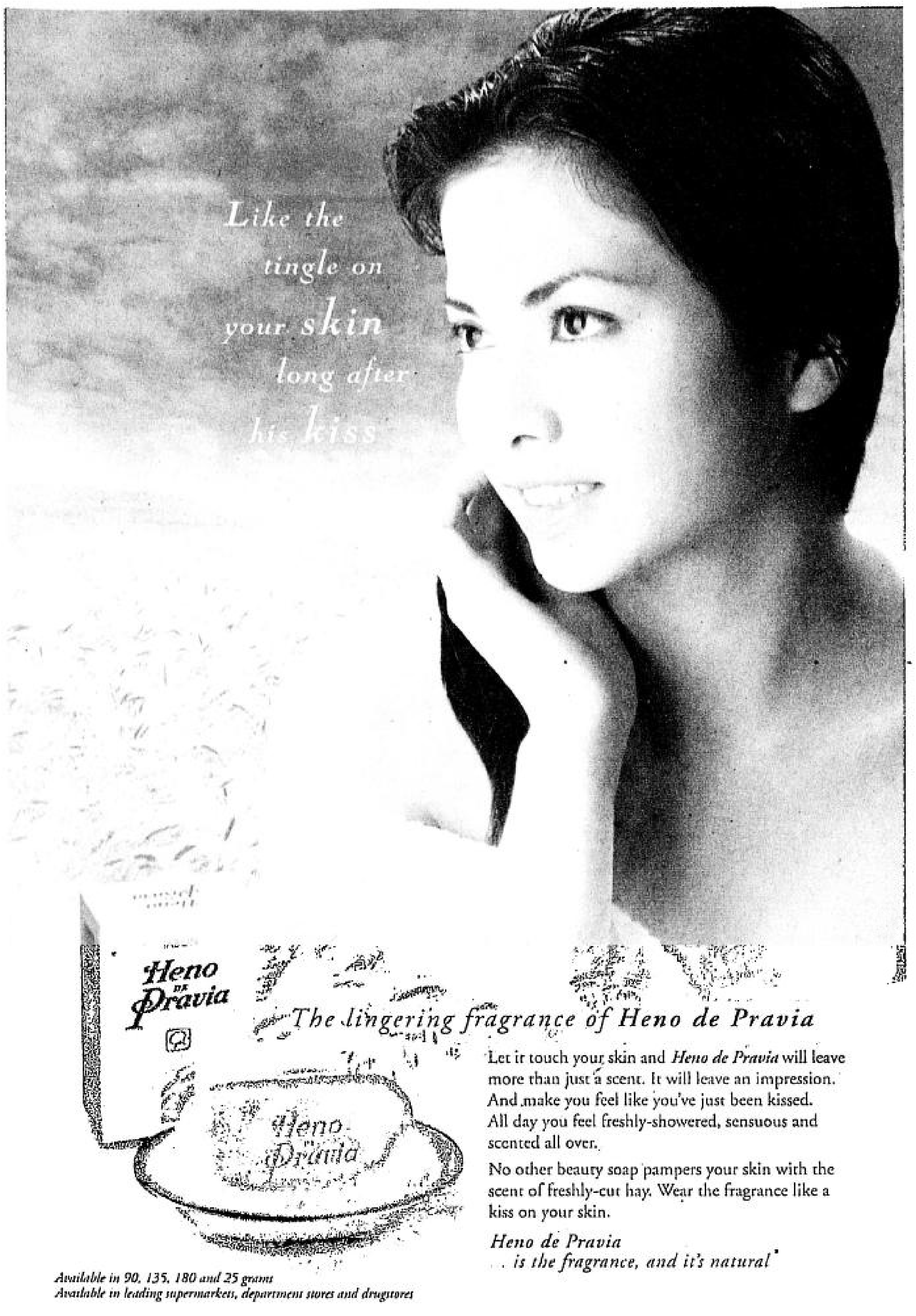
"When me and my posse dance, we actually form the dragon because we move in one unit. When we finally tour, I'm gonna try to bring the dragon as close to reality as possible," he explained.

Sisqo also plans to use a lot of illusions by studying Chinese theatre. "Just to see how I can incorporate it in my shows," he said.

Yet for all his successes, Sisqo remains firmly grounded. "The way I look at it, I'm still hot right now—but I could be cold tomorrow! My album could come out and nobody would like it, and I'll be packing my bags and go home. That's why I'm trying to do as much as I can while I have the public's attention."

For inspiration, Sisqo points to icons Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Madonna and Janet Jackson. He also admires the concerts staged by the '70s legendary group Earth, Wind and Fire and boy band N'Sync.

"I'm basically trying to make my own place in history and hopefully go down in history as someone that really changed the way things were and the way music sounded. Like Elvis, for example: He came along and no one was doing what he was doing or how he was doing it. Hopefully, when all is said and done, they'll look at me the same way."



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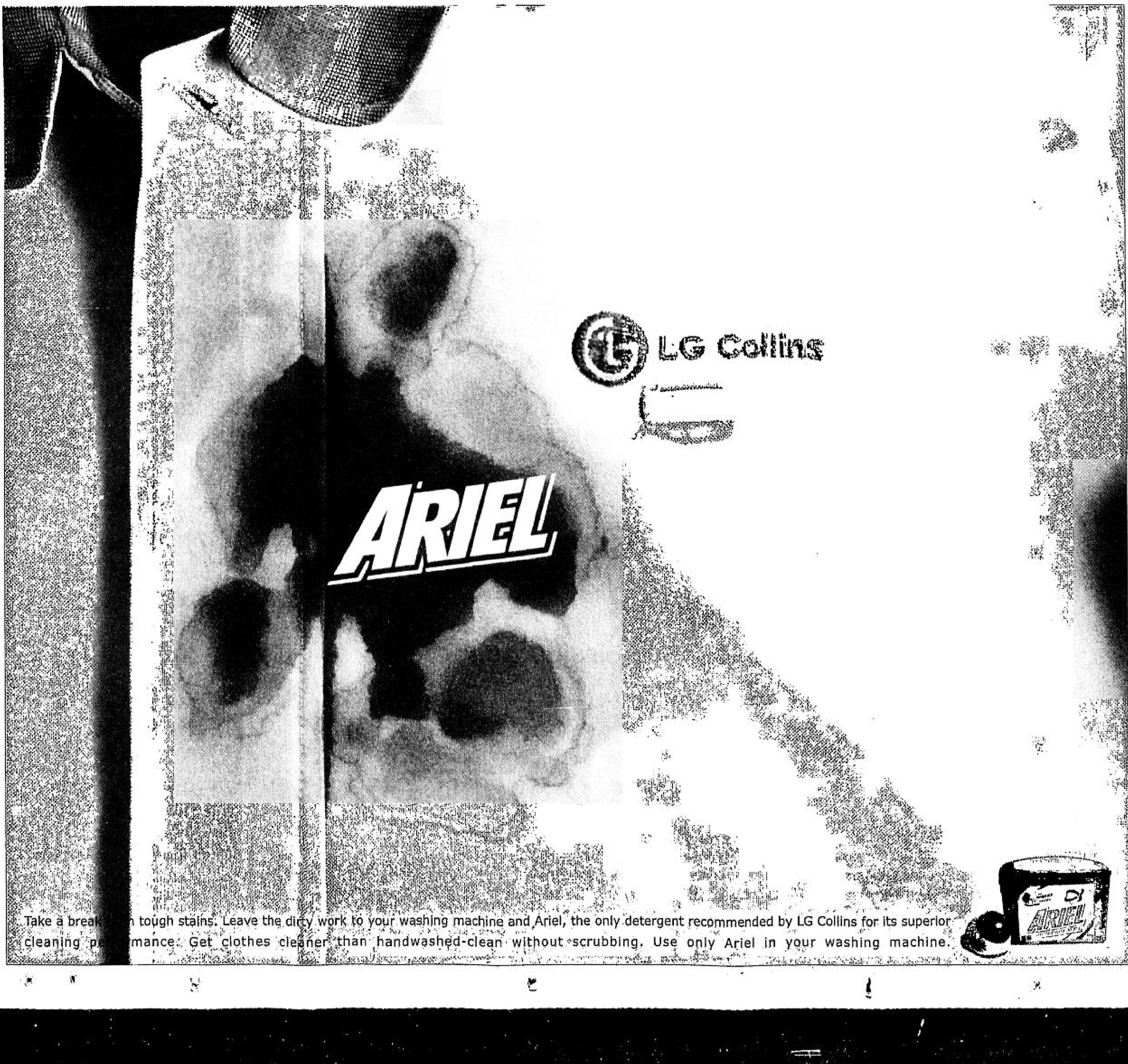

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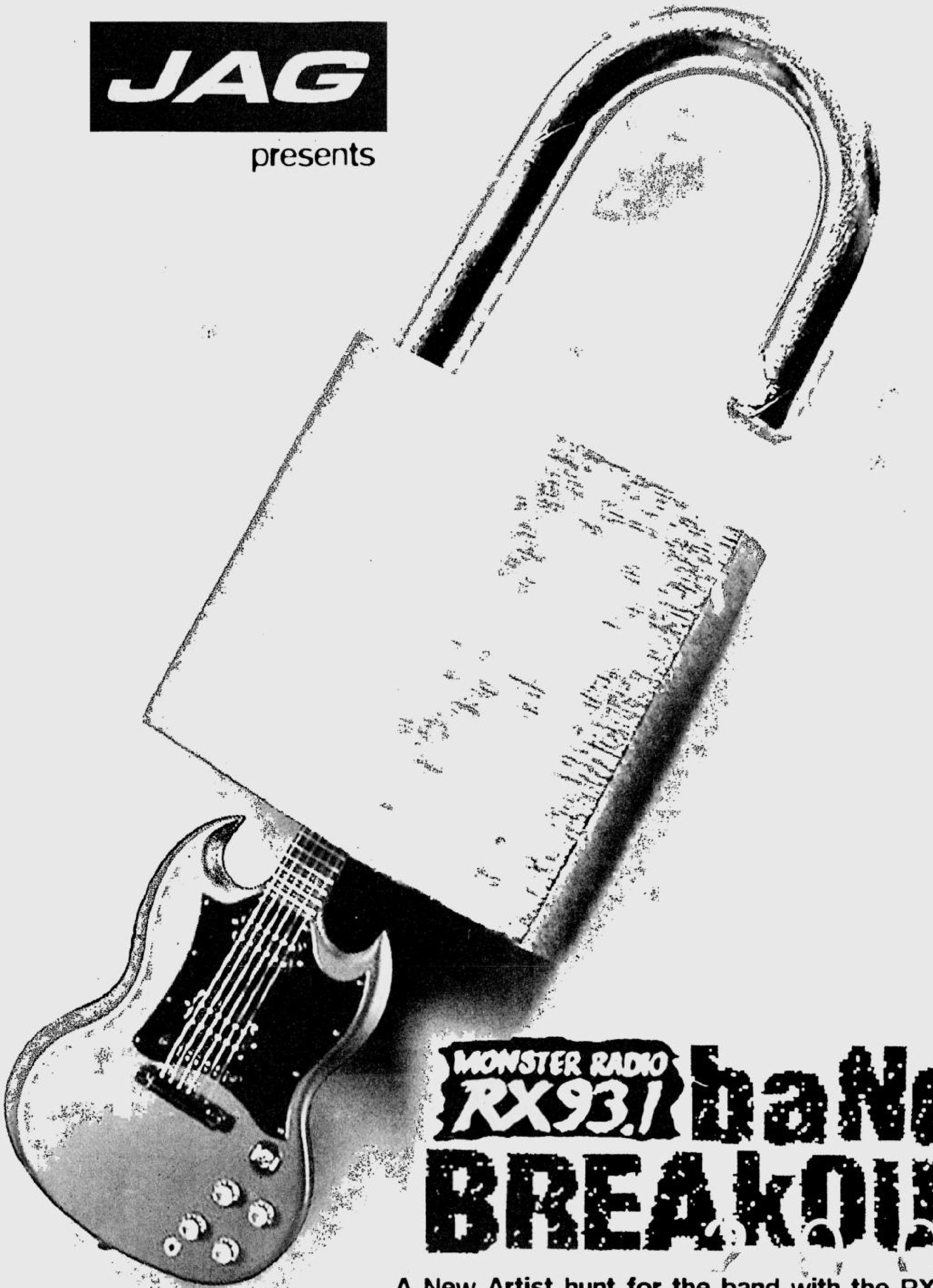

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Lady Lara Croft, meet Angelina Jolie

(From page E8)

because action stars and shoot-em-up movies are not the stuff of dramatic actresses. But Jolie told them to lighten up.

She defies social conventions too, as when she jumped in a hotel pool wearing her gown after winning one of her three Golden Globe awards, or the amulet she wears containing the blood of her husband, actor/director Billy Bob Thornton.

Icon

Combining a feminine figure (more about that later) with an unladylike hair-trigger finger and limber athleticism, Lara Croft has become an icon of video gamers worldwide.

"The roles she's taken in the past have been dark and complicated characters, and people think that's what she's like in real life," said director Simon West. "I wanted all that baggage to come with her . . . I wanted Lara Croft to have some of that danger and darkness about her."

Jolie admits that, unlike some of her dramatic roles such as portraying a mental patient in "Girl, Interrupted," which earned her the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award for 1999, the role of Lara Croft took very little acting talent. She felt she was able to step into Croft's skin, strap on a holster and blast away at bad guys without too much effort.

"You just become this person when you are there," she said. "There's not much acting when you do these roles."

Aristocratic accent

Which is not to say she did not have to work at it. She spent about a year in England learning about the nobility and polishing an aristocratic accent. She also trained in martial arts and high-tech weaponry, although, like most of the people involved with making the movie, she admits to not being a player of the video game.

To follow the movie, one does not need to know too much about the game, just that there is a super sexy, super smart, super cool woman named Lara Croft who is determined to live a life she wants to live, despite what others think.

"I love that Lara is a character that is very strong but also very much a girl," Jolie said. "She is somebody I really like. I think she loves adventure, and I think everybody has that in them."

In the movie, Lara Croft and Angelina Jolie are one and the same. There is no doubt about it, except for one little fact that is a big part of Croft. But more about that shortly.

ANGELINA is fond of defying social conventions.

The film opens with Croft testing her handguns on a pair of remote-controlled robots made by her computer geek sidekick, Bryce, played by Noah Taylor of "Almost Famous."

After she finishes demolishing them, she discovers a sort of timepiece that is coveted by a ruthless businessman. Very soon thereafter comes a letter that her father, Lord Croft (played by her real father, Voight), wrote her before he died.

The letter contains a cryptic reference to the timepiece, and using the letter Croft learns it is not merely a clock or calendar but a key that unlocks two crypts where separate pieces of an ancient totem have been hidden.

Godlike powers

If the two pieces are combined exactly when the planets are all aligned, then the person who possesses the totem can wield godlike powers and rule heaven and Earth.

The businessman, backed by a council of evil world leaders, wants to be that god, and it is up to Croft to save us from his destructive plans. As the movie unfolds, the two race against time and each other to be the first to find the two halves.

Like many movies based on video games, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" references the game, but the producers said they are not relying only on its fans to make the movie a hit. What they count on is the seemingly perfect match of actress with character—Jolie with Croft.

"We gambled and put our chips on Angelina," said veteran producer Larry Gordon, "and we think we were right."

Indeed, the pairing is a match made in heaven except for one problem that had most everyone leaving the movie at test screenings around Los Angeles talking: In the video game, Croft's breast size is exaggerated. To approximate the look, the filmmakers put Jolie in a bra that, in essence, became its own special effect.

More athletic

"I'll make it real simple," she said. "I'm a 36-C. In the game, she's a double-D. In the movie, she's a D. We split the difference . . . (the movie Croft) is much more athletic, and she has smaller breasts, but she's still Lara Croft, so there."

Amid a room full of supposedly jaded reporters, Jolie sits silently—rather matter-of-factly,—while they mostly turn away, scribble notes, check recorders and avoid eye contact.

She has stunned them, again, but only because she gave a frank answer to a question everyone had been dying to ask.

"I'm extremely honest, and I pride myself on it. I don't try to be shocking. I'm playful, and I know when something I'm saying is maybe shocking, but it's just the truth," said Jolie.

"I never wanted to be scary to people or upsetting to people. I simply want to live the way I need to live."

And who would fault a person for that? Certainly not Lady Lara Croft. *Reuters*

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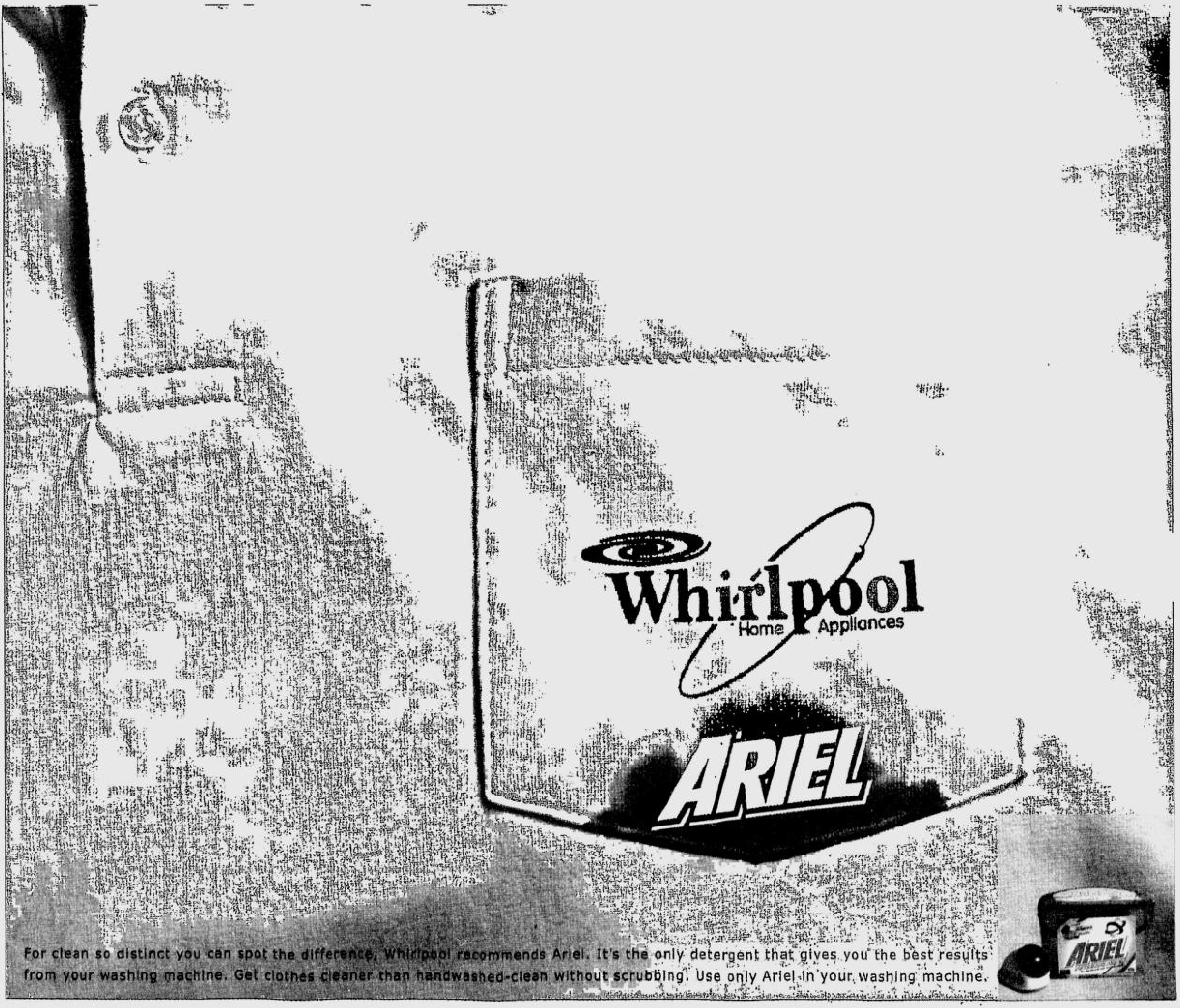

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JOLIE. A match made in heaven

Lady Lara Croft, meet Angelina Jolie

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—It seems like a match made in heaven—or deep inside a creepy crypt—with Hollywood bad girl Angelina Jolie in the role of video game action queen Lara Croft for a movie based on the popular game "Tomb Raider."

Wealth and title

Lady Lara, the buxom brunette who sees her wealth and title as only so much boring baggage, loves to blast underworld demons while on one of her many archeological excavations.

Jolie, daughter of Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight and an Oscar winner herself, often tweaks Hollywood's sensibilities in the roles she chooses, such as heroin-addicted model Gia Carangi or the wife of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

Indeed, in recent interviews to promote the new movie, she said many people advised her against taking the role of Lara

LADY LARA/p. E7

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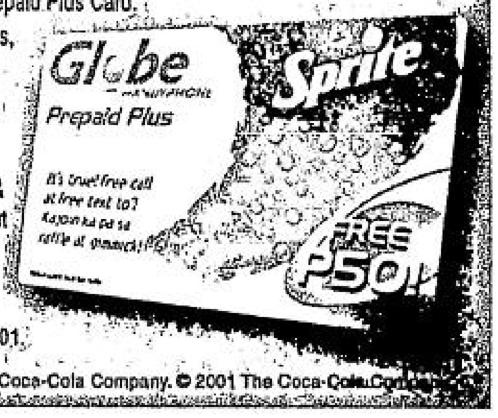

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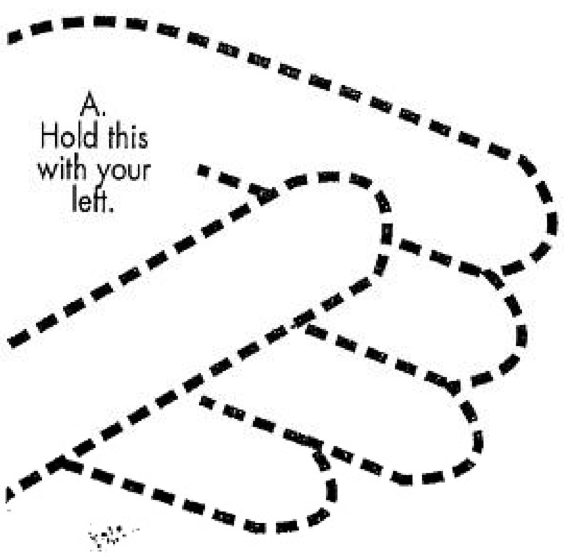

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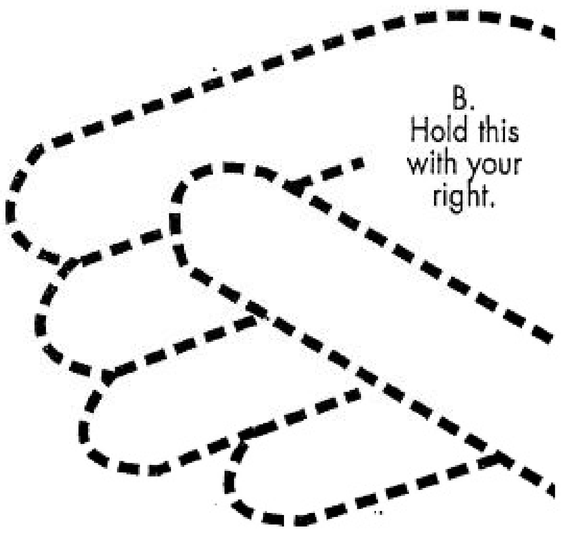

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'Sound of Music' has them singing in the aisles

By Marie McInerney

ADELAIDE, Australia—There was a male schnitzel with noodles, snow-capped mountains, wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings, about 200 nuns and a few dozen Gretls—and they could be coming to a place near you.

Cult movie

For decades "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" has been a cult movie where stiletto-wearing, suspender-belted devotees dress as their favorite character at screenings, but now it's the unlikely turn of Julie Andrews's "The Sound of Music."

The musical love story of aspiring nun Maria and the Von Trapp family, set during the German annexation of Austria in 1938, "The Sound of Music" was one of Hollywood's first movie blockbusters.

It turned around the struggling Twentieth Century Fox studio, scored five Academy Awards, rivaled "Gone with the Wind" at the box office, and sold more than 10 million soundtrack albums.

Now "Sing-along-a Sound-of-Music," an excuse for audiences to live out the screen life of nun Maria and Salzburg's Von Trapps, is starting to take cinemas and theatres around the world by storm.

In Adelaide, Australia, gaggles of women and men—gay and straight—trooped in dressed as nuns (albeit some in sequins), young feminists dolled up as Nazis, there was a bunch of brides, and a host of overgrown children, nearly all wearing plaits.

They booed every time they saw a Nazi, hissed the Baroness, waved scraps of curtain material, wolf-whistled the Captain, and went mad whenever they saw Maria.

"It's like having your life on playback," says a brown paper package tied up with string, admitting to having grown up with the 1965 movie and having seen it at least 30 times.

Perfect mother

"It was all your hopes and dreams and fears—a perfect mother bringing a perfect life to these gorgeous children—and, not to forget, this spunk of a man—but with these dark forces threatening to spoil it all," she adds.

"Now my own kids are as hooked as we ever were," she says, heading off to join a bevy of baronesses and a lather of lederhosen in the foyer of the Adelaide Festival Theatre.

Inspired somewhat incongruously by a senior citizens night out in Scotland several years ago, "Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music" debuted at a gay and lesbian film festival in London in 1999.

It now has a permanent home in London's West End, on show twice a week, and is a polished package, protected by copyright, and being rolled out to new audiences in Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Madness

It's a simple but oh-so-clever idea, unless of course you've never liked the movie—in which case it seems like madness.

Nearly everyone in the audience gets dressed up as their favorite character (the nuns and cute Gretl, the youngest Von Trapp, definitely win this night) or lyric (try being "silver white winters that melt into spring" as one little girl did).

Other costumes strike a chord for anything else remotely to do with the film—the curtains which Maria makes into playclothes, the Captain's whistle, even the garden gazebo which plays a central role in the two romances of the movie.

With a bit of coaching by a host, and a few prizes for best costumes, the 165-minute film rolls and the audience lets rip like at any good children's pantomine.

They boo baddies, cheer heroes, flash torches, ring church and cow bells, act out parts in the aisles, but mostly they sing their hearts out to crowd pleasers like "Do Re Me," "My Favorite Things," "The Lonely Goatherd," and "So Long, Farewell."

"It's great, like a huge, mad lounge room," said a German soldier after the show. "It's bad enough now going to the cinema where everybody chats away to each other like they're home on the sofa. This is really going to let the chaos loose."

Original

Promoters of "Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music" now have their eyes on just about every part of the world that went mad for the original, and a few that didn't—notably Germany and Austria.

"I think we will look at any market where the 'Sound of Music' was successful, which covers the whole world basically," London-based producer Ben Freedman told Reuters.

It has been hosted by the original Liesl Von Trapp (actress Charmian Carr), will premiere soon at the Hollywood Bowl, has just opened in its first non-English speaking market, Norway, is set to be dubbed—lyrics and all—into French, and could be on its way soon to Asia, with Japan the likely first eastern market.

But while its spread is wide, its promoters say audiences are remarkably similar—that is, overwhelmingly female.

"It's one of the rare stories where the princess saves the prince and it's one of the rare stories where there's a very strong female character who very much sorts everybody out," Freedman says. "I think a lot of women respond to that."

Like at many other venues, "Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music" sold out the 2,000 seats at its recent premiere in Adelaide, but the plan is to roll it out slowly across the world, relying on word of mouth publicity, much like the films of old, rather than a modern-day multi-market marketing blitz.

Reuters

JULIE Andrews as Maria, the singing governess.

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Spielberg, Arnold, Harry Potter power Warner Bros. lineup

"A.I." A tale of humanity in an age of intelligent machines.

"SUMMER CATCH." Poor boy falls in love with an out-of-towner.

"CAT AND DOGS." An eternal struggle between two great armies.

BACKED by a phalanx of Hollywood's top actors and directors, Warner Bros. vows to ignite the second half of 2001 with a high-powered film slate that includes the latest gems from Steven Spielberg, Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Travolta, Denzel Washington, Anthony Hopkins and the Farrelly brothers.

Sequels

To top it all, Warner Bros. president Alan Horn said the studio is assured of having 20 films available for 2002, thanks to productions already completed or well afoot. Those films include a pair of "Matrix" sequels as well as "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" that Warners hope to release next year.

Meanwhile, here's a sample of what blockbusters to look forward to in the months to come.

"A.I." Set in a distant futures Steven Spielberg's, "A.I." is a tale of humanity in an age of intelligent machines. The story focuses on the relationships and challenges involved when a robotic boy (Haley Joel Osment), the first programmed to love, co-exists as a member of a family. After a series of unexpected circumstances leave him without final acceptance by humans or machines, he journeys to discover where he truly belongs."

Charismatic

"Swordfish." This is the story of Gabriel Shear (John Travolta) the world's most dangerous spy, a charismatic, multifaceted man hired by the CIA to coerce a computer cracker (Hugh Jackman) recently released from prison to help steal $6 billion in unused government funds. In exchange the hacker can regain custody of his daughter and start a new life.

"Cats & Dogs." From the director of "Antz" comes this "Babe"-inspired comedy featuring the voices of Tobey Maguire, Susan Sarandon and Alec Baldwin. There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that the humans don't even know about, an eternal struggle between two great armies: the Cats and the Dogs. The film follows a Cat plan to destroy a new vaccine that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to Dogs, and the Dogs' efforts to stop the Cats.

"Collateral Damaged." Directed by "The Fugitive's" Andrew Davis and starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, this action-thriller tells the story of family man and firefighter Gordon Brewer who is plunged into the complex and dangerous world of international terrorism after he loses his wife and child in a bombing credited to Claudio "The Wolf" Perrini. Frustrated with the official investigation and haunted by the thought that the man responsible for murdering his family might never be brought to justice, Brewer takes matters into his own hands and tracks his quarry ultimately to Colombia.

Construction worker

"Osmosis Jones." Deep in the City of Frank (actually the body of construction worker Frank Detomello), Osmosis Jones (voiced by Chris Rock) is a white blood cell cop who has to team up with a rookie cold tablet (voiced by David Hyde-Pierce) to fight off evil viruses intent on taking over. Meanwhile, out in the "real world," a doctor is trying to diagnose what's going on inside Frank's (Bill Murray) body. The live-action part is directed by Peter and Bobby Farrelly ("There's Something About Mary") while the animators of "The Iron Giant" and "The Prince of Egypt" direct the animation half.

"Summer Catch." This touching love story is about a romance between a poor, local boy (Freddie Prinze Jr.) and a wealthy, out-of-towner (Jessica Biel), whose family spends its summers in his Cape Cod hometown. Prinze plays on a minor league baseball team and tries to impress big-league scouts so he can escape his small-town life.

"Training Day." Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke and rap singer Snoop Doggy Dog star in this gripping drama set in the shadowy world of undercover police work. It tells the story of a veteran LAPD narcotics officer (Washington) who guides an idealistic rookie (Hawke) through his first day on the brutal inner-city beat.

Father figure

"Hearts in Atlantis." Based on the novel by Stephen King and adapted by Oscar winner William Goldman, this thriller tells the story of Bobby Garfield, an 11-year-old boy growing up in Connecticut in 1960. Bobby is befriended by Ted Brautigan (Anthony Hopkins), a man renting a room in their house who becomes a father figure to Bobby. Ted, however, soon reveals that he has a special psychic gift.

"HARRY POTTER." A movie about witchcraft and wizardry.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) has spent the first 10 years of his life living under the stairs in the house of his aunt and uncle, who generally dislike him. Then, one day, a giant comes to him with an invitation to study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry soon discovers that there are two worlds: one is the dreary world of the Muggles where he's grown up, and the other is one of magic and fantasy, and it's the latter in which he's destined to live.

"Slaton Sea." Produced by "The Green Mile's" Frank Darabont and starring Val Kilmer ("Red Planet"), this character-driven thriller is about an unlikely hero's search for redemption following the murder of his wife.

Joel Lamangan directs another thought-provoking movie

By Edmund L. Sicam

IF you want a relaxing time at the cinema, then don't watch a Joel Lamangan film. "Death Row," "Bulaklak ng Maynila" and "Abandonada" are not exactly films that you'd bring your date to. You will only get depressed and be forced to think about important issues you would rather not deal with.

Joel doesn't make date movies because, according to him, a film should shake up the status quo and awaken people from their lethargic state. You don't have to agree with his viewpoint but if you are affected enough to speak for or against his movie, then he feels he has succeeded.

Disturbing work

In his latest movie "Mila" starring Maricel Soriano, his protagonist is a teacher, a character seldom examined in great detail on the big screen. As with most of his works, this one is another disturbing work. Recently we sat down with the controversial director and got an earful on Social Issues 101.

When are you going to make happy movies?

When everything is happy (laughs); at the moment *parang* there's nothing to be happy about. I only do movies that capture a particular reality at a given time. *Parang* there's nothing to be happy about *ngayon*.

Has there ever been a time in the past when you thought it was the right time to make a happy movie?

Ang hirap kasi, ang bilis ng turn of events. After EDSA I, I thought okay *na ang lahat*. I could already make happy movies,—*tapos* it's not that beautiful *pala*! The problems were still there. Edsa II, I thought, OK, it's gonna be different. *'Di rin pala*. Nothing has changed in 40 years.

LAMANGAN. No date movies.

Creative juices

Is it also because as a filmmaker, *parang mas* inspired *ka*, your creative juices flow faster *pag gumawa ka ng* movies *na* pessimistic *ang* view of life?

Yeah, *sa akin kasi*, it has to shock, it has to say something. But I think my creative juices will also flow if the people are really happy. Then you can create something happy on the screen. But the reality is that people are not happy, that's why I cannot *naman* turn it around, it will be a farce. I don't want to make something farcical at the moment. But I would like to do happy movies, I really do.

I cannot imagine you doing a "Mary Poppins" kind of movie.

Maybe not.....but during my theater days, I used to do happy theater, I mean theater that depicted some kind of happiness, but it was more on the satirical side. I have not yet done something like "Mary Poppins" or "Sound of Music" or something like that.

Social ills

For the past years, directors like you have been exposing the so-called social ills, etc.—*ano, wala bang epekto*?

Some people will eventually realize the truth of what the artists are saying. Some people will of course abhor our ideas but the mere fact that this particular artist has expressed certain sentiments that expose reality, that's a plus factor already. *Sa akin kasi*, art should not conform with the status quo. It should reflect a certain kind of reality from the perspective of the majority. The majority are the people under the poverty line.

Does the artist have to present solutions?

No, that's not his job. The only thing an artist can do is present a certain kind of reality. If that will make people move, that is alright because it can precipitate thinking, so the artist is successful. Even if they do not agree with what the movie is saying, as long as it encourages discussion it means something is going on in their minds. *Sa akin*, art should always have a bias.

Positive outlook

***Iyung sa* "Bulaklak ng Maynila," *ang* ending *mo* more or less *may konting* positive outlook, in the sense that the characters are looking forward to a different kind of life from what they experienced.**

Actually that was a compromise (laughs). The producers wanted the movie to end on a positive note, and I had to say *"sige na nga."* I wanted to end it with the killing of Boyet but the producers did not want a downbeat ending so *kailangan may* epilogue, where the family is united. Filmmaking is really a balancing act.

So in "Mila," did you make certain compromises?

I wanted to do the story of Anita Pamintuan, the real person, but I couldn't do it. There were legal hindrances, the family, all those things, so we had to fictionalize the story. I wanted to show how the Secretary of Education at that time reacted to the problem presented by the teachers. I could not do that because it's quite political. But still, it's a strong movie. If I had all the money in the world to produce that kind of movie, I would present it as it was.

But the essence is still there. There are teachers who are being exploited, the teachers really went on strike, there was one teacher who resorted to selling coffee and peanut butter sandwiches on the street, Mila did not stop teaching. She taught the street children and the prostitutes to stand for their rights. That truth is still there

Drawing the line

Where do you draw the line, as far as making compromises?

As long as it will not destroy the essence of what I would like to say in my movie. I have refused several films already, I told them, *"Kumuha na lang kayo ng iba."* Because I will not be happy doing it and you will not be happy with what you will see on screen.

Teachers

There have been few local movie made about teachers. Why do you think that is so, when teachers pervade many people's lives?

They're always overlooked. As a matter of fact, as a sector, they have always been taken for granted, even by the movie industry. *Andyan lang sila. Hindi na*-explore *iyung problema ng isang* teacher. This movie tries to do that. But this teacher is not perfect. *Marami siyang* imperfections, just like any other human being. Like, *hiwalay siya sa asawa, umibig siya sa* addict. But, *yung kanyang* desire to teach was always there

So, is there anything in this society that you are happy about?

People, my friends. I'm so fortunate that I'm doing something that I'm being paid for—I love directing. I love this business.

Pessimist

Are you a pessimist, by nature?

I'm not a pessimist in the sense that I do not believe *na wala nang* hope. I do, it's just that maybe, it's going to take a long time. There will be a protracted struggle to make things better. I do not expect change to come tomorrow.

What do you think of the current administration?

I think it's too early to judge. *Wala pa siyang isang* taon *pero* there is already a trend where I can see that it will not be any different from all the other administrations. The economy is not really going anywhere. The movie industry is really dying. The government does not see the industry as an economic sector.

Proactive

But don't you feel that the industry is also not proactive enough?

It's trying to be active, but there are forces that hinder it. Like, *sinong producer ang magsusugal sa isang panahon na hindi ka sigurado*? What kind of movie will you show? How will you compete with high-budget foreign movies? *Anong ipapalabas mo*? Anything that is adult, *bawal. Di ba, wala ka nang ipapaglaban. Sa kanila kasi, napakababa ng tingin nila sa* Pilipino audience. *Bakit pag* Ingles *puede*?

This didn't stop Lino Brocka during the time of Morato to come up with movies that tried to push the envelope. *Di ba puedeng gawin ng* industry iyon?

The situation was different then. Everyone was aware, *lahat nagtatanong noon, lahat nagse*-search *ng kanilang* certain identity. The times are different now *Ang mga tao* seem to be lethargic. After the struggle at EDSA II, *ayaw na naman, bumagsak na naman. Iba ng panahon ni* Lino, because there was Marcos. *Nung panahon ni* Aquino, *bumaba na naman*. We need another one like him. *Kasi kailangan na naman ng bagong sitwasyon, bagong* political happening.

'Live Show'

The banning of "Live Show" didn't seem to awake those sentiments.

Because there was not much support even in the industry. *Napaka*-divided. Because *ang lakas ng hatak ng* religion.

Ako, I was so hurt. *Tinago nila ang totoong* issue—freedom of expression, *hindi* sexual exploitation. *Kahit saang* sector *may* sexual exploitation. *Bakit ngayon lang nila bini*-bring out? *Bakit iyung* casting couch, *kasing tanda na iyon ng* Hollywood.

Reliving the Callas legend

By Pablo A. Tariman

THE MOST viewable play at the moment is Terence McNally's Tony Award-winning play "Master Class," given its Philippine premiere by Repertory Philippines under the direction of Zenaida Amador.

Reminiscences

The play is about a fictional master class conducted by the opera legend, Maria Callas, at the Juilliard school. But as the master class progresses, you get bits and pieces of reminiscences based on the actual life of the diva, including her tumultuous love affair with the Greek shipping magnate, Aristotle Onassis who rejected her in favor of Jackie Kennedy.

Baby Barredo—she had earlier appeared in a Pergolesi opera before her sojourn in the theater—plays the multifaceted role of Maria Callas and does very well to project the diva as voice coach and as a plain human being. Incidentally, Barredo had actually watched a real master class conducted by Callas and she had seen her in the title role of "Tosca" mounted at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Thrill

The thrill of this play is that the roles of the singers singing Bellini, Puccini and Verdi arias were given to honest-to-goodness opera singers and the coaching enlightens even non-opera enthusiasts about the meaning of those arias under master class scrutiny.

The most dissected aria in the play, *Ah! non credea mirarti* from Bellini's "La Sonnambula," was last heard to great acclaim at the Manila Metropolitan Theater, as sang by the great Romanian diva, Nelly Miricioiu, a grand prize winner of the Maria Callas International Voice Competition.

A funny interlude in the play was when the diva asked the student (played by Karla Gutierrez) to sing the aria's cabaletta (the concluding part of the aria) and when she hesitated, she yelled, "An aria without a cabaletta is like sex without an orgasm."

However, the most thrilling live aria in the play, *Recondita armonia* (from Tosca), was given honest-to-goodness interpretation by tenor Nolyn Cabahug who plays the part of Anthony Candolino. (In the Cleveland production of this play, Filipino tenor Gary del Rosario is earning raves in the role of Candolino.)

Tenor

Callas was last heard in a concert in Sapporo, Japan with tenor Franco Corelli in 1974, the same decade the latter made his Philippine debut with a perceived close rival of Maria Callas, Renata Tebaldi.

From my music diary, it appears that two outstanding Filipino artists—conductor Red Romero and soprano Lilia Reyes—were self-confessed Maria Callas fans.

Reyes—who passed away the other month in Rome—first saw Maria Callas at the inauguration of Teatro de'll Opera with the diva singing Norma in 1955. The president of Italy was there and so were members of Rome's high society.

Recalled Reyes then: "After her big aria, 'Casta diva,' the people were not too happy and so the applause was not so warm. Well, she just walked out and did not finish the opera even if the president of Italy was in the audience."

Reyes said the audience was very angry but being a regular Callas watcher, what the diva did was no longer a surprise for her. "That was not the first time she caused a scandal in the theater. For a time, she was literally walking out in all the theaters. There was this big fight with Rudolf Bing of the Metropolitan Opera and another sensational walkout at the Lyric Opera in Chicago."

Unequivocal

In her personal impressions of Callas, Reyes was unequivocal about a few details. She remembers Callas' long fingers, the big eyes and the magnetic personality. "What amazes me," she confided, "was how she could carry meters and meters of fabric around her. They seemed to be part of her."

The late conductor Redentor Romero who passed away last March considered Maria Callas as the Toscanini of the voice, and for a good reason: he saw Callas sing lead roles in "Lucia di Lammermoor," "La Traviata" and "La Boheme," among others.

Of Callas's "Lammermoor" role, Romero said she was the best Lucia he had ever heard in his whole life.

Romero described the Callas magic on stage thus: "Her big reputation preceded her. When she came on stage, I just froze—she was that magnetic.

"Vocally, Renata Tebaldi was better than Callas but she didn't have Callas' charisma. With Tebaldi on stage, you could still gossip with your seatmate. With Callas, you couldn't because you got carried way by her performance."

In what way did Callas influence the opera world?

Romero said Callas steered opera to the greatest heights just as Mohammed All elevated boxing to the level of a grand event.

Personality

"Vocally, there are many fantastic voices around but no one had the personality of Maria Callas!"

BARREDO. Plays the late diva in Repertory's "Master Class."

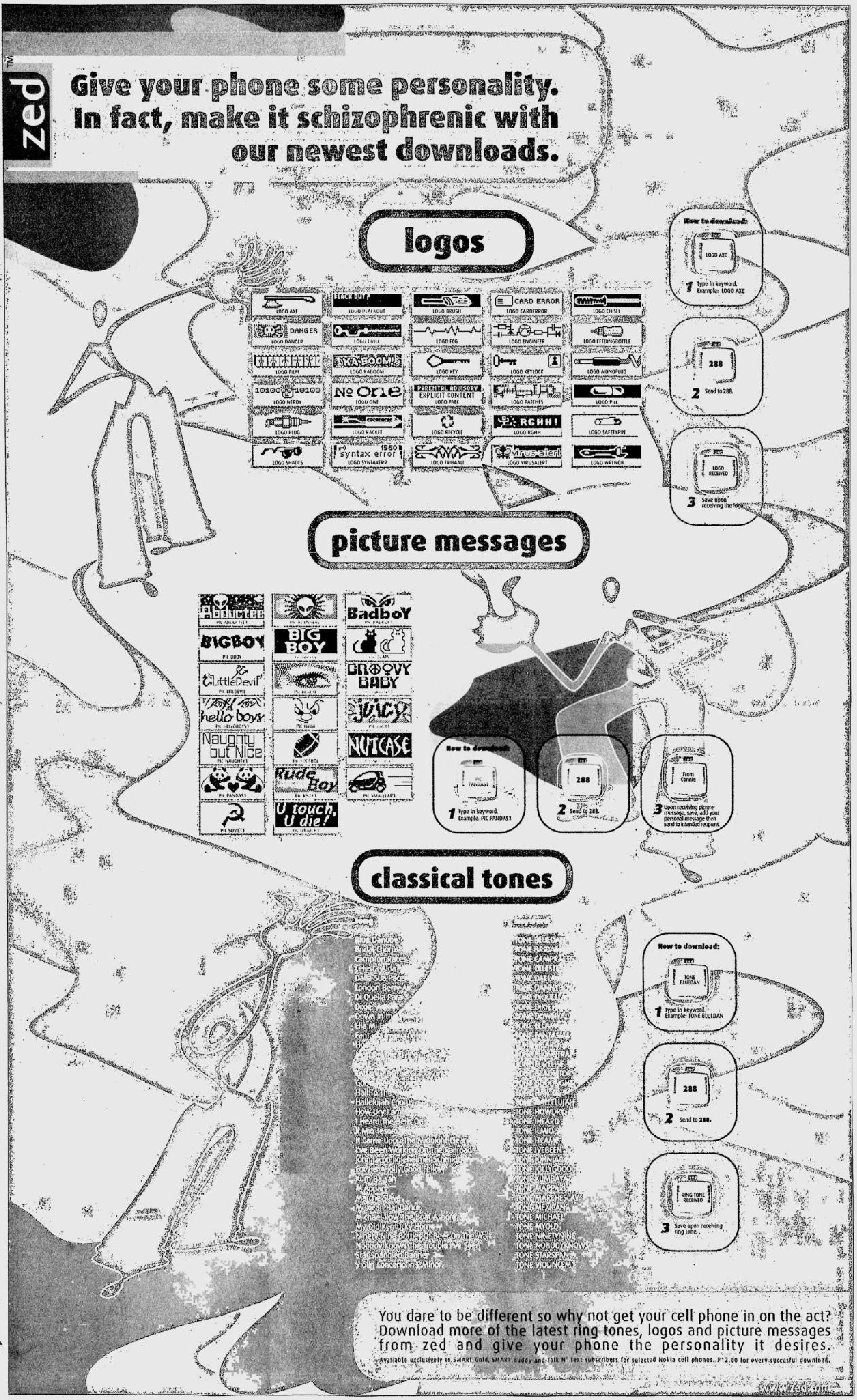
Reyes agreed. "Opera had a following but with the advent of Maria Callas, opera suddenly became exciting; it became an event. During her time, a prima donna was really somebody. Opera singers got their share of respect but nothing matched the glamour and following of Maria Callas."

The two Filipino Callas fans were naturally downhearted when the diva died in 1977 at the age of 54, alone in a Paris apartment.

Reyes: "She wasn't very old but all of a sudden, she found herself alone. She was wealthy but she had very little use for that. She was one artist who used her voice, her body, her mind and her emotion for her art during her lifetime."

Romero: "I died a little when I heard of her death. You always die a little when somebody good or great leaves us."

CALLAS. With her, opera suddenly became exciting; it became an event.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How women should be depicted in films

By Behn Cervantes

IT WAS in 1979 when I first met Raquel Villacencio, writer and actress as well as Board Member now of the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) in verdant Pagsanghan, where cast and crew of Eddie Romero's opus "Aguila" were lodged. Raquel and Mel Chionglo were part of the production design team for the film. Raquel was different from the usual crew because she was very attractive, slim, and obviously sensitive and intelligent. We quickly became friends.

Censorship

Many things have happened since then, including fighting censorship and advocating the classification of films with the likes of stalwart advocates for freedom of expression like the late Lino Brocka, Armida Siguion Reyna, Pete Lacaba, Bibeth Orteza, Mel Chionglo, Joel Lamangan, Laurice Guillen, Nic Tiongson, Bien Lumbera and other consistent fighters for artistic rights.

Since then Raquel has become an established screenwriter. Her works have been honored and won prizes for their quality as well as her unique representation of the Filipina's psyche. She is likewise a respected thinking member of a small group of writers who uphold a vision for Philippine cinema. Certainly, there is no lack of acting or directorial talents in the Philippines, but most of the scripts that become the body and soul of local films are inadequate in quality.

What then are the problems, I ask a pensive Raquel. After a moment of thought, she declares: "There is a lack of cultural consciousness because of the present state of our economics that burdens the nation. We seem to be regressing in all aspects, with little focus on values. Traditional (Filipino) values have lost meaning in the present society because of lack of role models. The present state of affairs is not conducive to traditional values."

Leaders

Where lies the fault? "Well, the schools are neither breeding nor cultivating leaders with a national vision. Where are our leaders taking us? What is the position of the Church in terms of the malaise of our society?" These seem to be wonderful subject matter for scripts, but why aren't they being exploited for more insightful and thought-provoking movies?

VILLAVICENCIO. Sensitive and intelligent.

"Local screenwriters are limited to commercial genres like drama and comedy of the most predictable kind. They are not allowed to experiment and discover new ways of attacking themes. Neither are they allowed to express themselves in other forms of storytelling."

I see before me a beautiful and attractive woman, so I must ask her how women should be depicted in films. "Women should be able to come into their own and transcend the patriarchal limitations imposed by society on them," Raquel intones.

Who are responsible for these myopic limitations? "The church, the family, the system of education, mass media and the male partner."

What should a woman do then? "She should never allow herself to be a victim of these elements. She should recognize that the patriarchal heritage works against her growth since it allows her so few alternatives."

"What story would interest Raquel, the female screenwriter? "I have this story of an unmarried woman who acutely feels the pressure of society and her family for her to get married. A sick father uses his terminal illness to pressure her to marry, so that she can be secure in the most traditional manner. Her desperation to be a good and obedient daughter finally forces her to pay a man to marry her so that her father can die content that his final wish is answered.

Desperate act

"It is a desperate act to unburden herself but unwittingly she is loaded with enormous emotional and psychological problems that will most definitely alter her whole being. She is still trapped in socially-dictated roles that require her to be a good daughter, wife, mother and maid."

Since she started in 1980, a time she calls the Golden Age of Screenwriting, what has changed since then? "The early '80s saw the productive works of Pete Lacaba, Ricky Lee, Danding Nadres and Doy del Mundo. Even fine directors like Lino, Ishmael Bernal and Eddie Romero collaborated in writing screenplays for a more cohesive statement."

What brought about the changes that saw a decline in the mid-'80s to the '90s? "The scene became grossly commercial. The films went all-out to make money. Films were no longer *pang*-award, producers were unabashedly out to make profit in whatever way they could. If sex made money, then it was sex the producers exploited. The same thing was true for violence and toilet humor. While artists looked upon cinema as an art form, they saw it only as an industry.

"In a very real sense, the screenwriters were at the mercy of the producers who hired them. There was little they could do if the producers were out only to make money, no matter how."

What is her view of the contemporary Philippine cinema scene? "It is scary. The future seems bleak for the local industry. The dominance of hugely successful Hollywood films like 'Pearl Harbor,' 'Moulin Rouge' and 'The Mummy Returns,' for example, completely dwarfs the efforts of our filmmakers. It is still David versus Goliath!"

The answer? *(To be concluded)*

Show biz stars as fathers

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Father's Day, TV shows came up with a number of features, interviews, panel discussions and "tribute" presentations extolling the virtues and accomplishments of some male show biz stars as daddies. Their children gushed about their appreciation for what their celebrity fathers had done for them, despite their busy schedules.

How wonderful, the impressed viewer thought—to these admirable luminaries, despite the glittering distractions of stardom, family always comes first!

Real picture

That's the glossy Father's Day scenario. On the *other* hand, some celebrities' children themselves moan that the real picture is often quite different. They caution viewers against believing show biz dads when they dramatically intone, "I may not see my children that often because of my hectic schedule, but whenever I can manage it, I give them a lot of *quality time*!"

Or, "I may not live with my children since my wife and I are separated, but they know that I'm always there for them!"

Or, "I admit, I can't give my children regular financial support due to the hard times, but when they have problems, I always give them advices (sic)!"

You get the picture. Some show biz dads aren't content with having just the regulation one wife and creatively (and procreatively) complicate the equation by siring children with any number of women. A particularly randy and fertile macho show biz figure has fathered some 60 kids, while others content themselves with a "mere" 10 or 15.

Problem children

The more, the merrier? Could be—but *messier*, definitely!

These multiple offsprings, who belong to separate households, often grow up to be problem children because their generally absentee fathers aren't around to love or discipline them into shape.

Which is not to say that all absentee dads of multiple households or musical beds are niggardly when it comes to supporting their poly-progeny.

Indeed, some stellar daddies are generous to a fault, making up for their absence and neglect by drowning their kids in money, gifts, *pasalubong* from abroad, and other opulent tokens of their alleged affection.

They hope that these material favors will make their children feel loved and appreciated. But, when they get older, their kids realize that Daddy has been buying their love, acquiescence and forgiveness all these years.

When that realization comes, Daddy's "buy-love operation" is exposed, and some of their children rebel, turning to drugs, drink, *barkadas* and sex to get back at their similarly delinquent dads, soiling their image as screen heroes by showing that they and their kids have feet of clay.

When that happens, Daddy uses all of his considerable clout to keep the scandal out of the media's avid glare, covering up their kids' muddy tracks with the gloss of show biz family fiction. But their children know better.

Difficulties

What can show biz dads do to do better by their children? First, drastically limit the number of their women, and consequently their children. Second, when a show biz marriage breaks up, they must continue to see, care for and guide their children, despite the difficulties involved.

They shouldn't use money to make up for their sins, because that doesn't work. In fact, all that extra cash even makes things worse because it gives young people the werewithal to fund their vices, attract hangers-on and other unsavory influences, etc. What the world needs now is love, not parental bribery!

Finally, show biz dads shouldn't perpetuate the fiction that good intentions and long-distance parenting can bring up good children. That may happen once in a long while, but it's definitely the exception that proves the rule that deficient parenting is murder on a child's psyche.

So, delinquent show biz dads, shape up, and save your children from the negative effects of your sins of omission and commission. They deserve much better than what you've been giving them thus far, don't they?

Freeman reprises role in 'Along Came a Spider'

"ITSY-BITSY spider . . ." or so goes the nursery rhyme. This harmless paean to the spider belies a more macabre, gruesome and quite hideous aspect of this generally dreaded insect.

Layers

Like Agatha Christie's disturbing "Three Blind Mice," the menace comes with the nefarious twists and layers upon layers of deceit, just like a spider's web. This is true for the film "Along Came A Spider," which is a psychological suspense thriller adapted from James Patterson's first highly acclaimed novel in the Alex Cross series.

In the film, three-time Academy Award nominee Morgan Freeman reprises his role as the Washington D.C. police detective and psychologist who is through playing mind games with criminals—that is until a methodical predator commits a daring kidnapping and lures Cross into the case.

Directed by Lee Tamahori ("Once Were Warriors") with the screenplay of Marc Moss, the film stars Freeman, Monica Potter, Michael Wincott, Penelope Ann Miller and Michael Moriarty. Freeman first appeared as Dr. Cross in "Kiss The Girls," co-starring Ashley Judd.

In this installment, the death of his partner causes Detective Cross to retreat to the peace of retirement. Renowned as an accomplished police detective, psychologist and best-selling author, Cross reluctantly gets involved in a federal case when the kidnapper leaves a piece of evidence in his mailbox.

Ulterior motive

Familiar with Cross' literary success, the kidnapper is theorized to have an ulterior motive: to be documented by Cross after committing the crime of the century.

Producers David Brown and Joe Wizan re-team with actor Morgan Freeman in bringing to the screen the investigative exploits of Dr. Alex Cross. While Freeman traditionally avoids repeating roles, he was drawn back to the detective because of the character's rarely seen qualities.

"Cross is a well-trained, well-educated writer as well as a policeman," says star and executive producer Morgan Freeman.

More surprises

Discussing the Alex Cross series, producer Brown says: There are even more surprises in this picture than "Kiss The Girls;" surprises that stunned me when I read the script. It has the primary Alex Cross character, but the piece basically stands alone."

Freeman was equally impressed with the story. "There's a lot of mystery," he says. "It's like peeling an onion when you start trying to solve it. There are a lot of layers and twists and turns in the plot." "Along Came A Spider" is distributed by United International Pictures.

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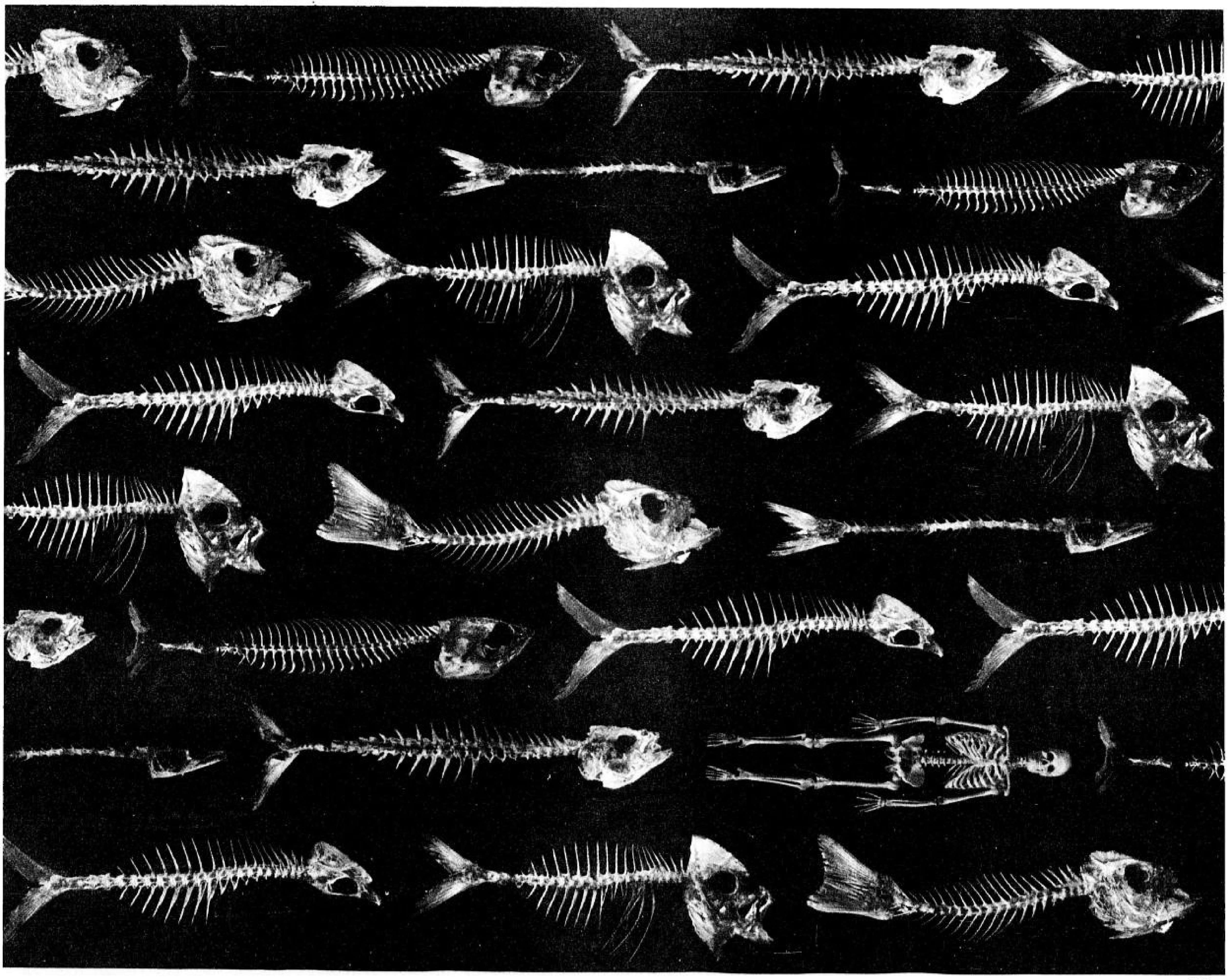

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Goodbye, John Rendez; hello, John Robert Porter Jr.

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IN all the 10 years than he has been in show business, this extremely talented rap artist has never really been given the chance that he deserves. In fact, if there's a list of the most maligned and misunderstood personalities in show biz, his name should be in the top 10.

Blind items

He's a favorite of movie scribes who have made a flourishing cottage industry of malicious and dastardly blind items, alluding to him as a junkie, a bad influence on the superstar who took him in, a spoiled brat who passionately refuses to understand the world but expects it to understand him just the same.

I'm referring to John Rendez—now sporting the name John Robert Porter Jr. to signal the change that he hopes to happen in his life and career.

"Everything about John Rendez was a nightmare," he readily admits now. "I don't know why, but there were people who always chose to misunderstand me. I strongly suspected at the same time that they had simply made it their mission in life to destroy me for reasons beyond my ability to understand."

John wryly smiles as he recalls the time when he was the favorite whipping boy of both Nora Aunor diehards and detractors alike. They blamed him for anything and everything that went wrong in Guy's life, even as Guy herself was always the first to say that he was the best thing that had ever happened to her.

Unfortunate

"It's unfortunate that people always misjudge the kind of relationship that I have with Guy," John rues. "Of course, it didn't help that we also didn't really feel the need to explain our situation, because ours is a profoundly beautiful kinship that defies the worst things that people can think of, so why bother?"

But John confesses, "Yes, it hurt a lot. The most painful was the betrayal of some people we thought were friends, but who would later stab us in the back. Sometimes, it makes you lose faith in the innate goodness of people; but then, the world doesn't stop turning just because some folks sink a knife between your shoulder blades."

I had occasion to talk with Guy about John once and, like all the people who cared for her, I asked why she couldn't seem to outgrow him and get him out of her life. Guy drew a deep breath before answering, probably weighing in her mind how she should explain it in a way that would be comprehensible to me.

"John was there when everyone chose to not be there," Guy said. "He was there for me for no reason at all. He was just there. Most of my life, I've been surrounded by all kinds of people, most of whom were there because they could use me. They were gone at the first hint of trouble.

"John is different. He came at the time that I was down and out. I had nothing to give to anyone so no one was there, except him. I'll never forget that."

And Guy pointed out something that revealed a lot not only about John but also about her. "John is an eternal child. His faith and trust, once he gives it to you, is total. It is the kind of faith and trust that no one has ever given me."

Flavor of the season

I first heard of John some 10 years ago. Like most people, I immediately dismissed him as the superstar's flavor of the season. But as time flew, I got intrigued by the tenacity of their "friendship." Indeed, people came in and out of Guy's life, but only John stayed.

"I stayed because she is home," John says matter-of-factly. And this is saying a lot coming from someone who hasn't really known what home is. For John is an Amerasian, born in Angeles, Pampanga of an American father and a *Waray* mother, but grew up in Brooklyn, NY only to return to the Philippines to reconnect with his roots.

For a while, he was a popular DJ in the dime-a-dozen honkytonks in Olongapo, and his talent for rap and his on-the-edge, I-dare-you-to-love me attitude endeared him to a burgeoning legion of groupies. Then Nora Aunor, like a magic wand, came into his life and changed it forever.

He has the looks, talent and attitude of a true artist screaming to be set free. But his first venture to produce his own album ("Metal Dog") some years back met with only modest success. The album was composed of original rap compositions proclaiming the gospel of life, love and war according to John Rendez, but Filipinos were not yet prepared for angst and raw rage as a musical form.

Limited budget

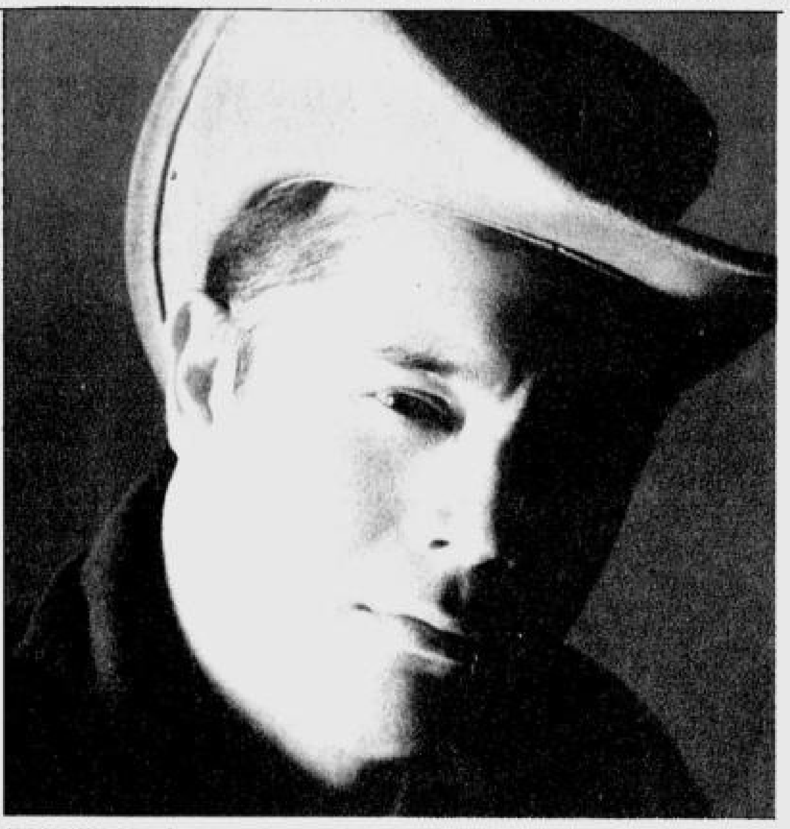
John also produced and starred in the movie "Sindak," which he has pronounced a success, considering the limited budget it took to put it together. That initial foray into filmmaking affirmed to John that he's got what it takes. With dogged determination, which he has tons of, he's confident he's just prepping himself for the big-time that's sure to come.

Right now, with the reinvention that he has gone through as highlighted by his name change, John Robert Porter Jr. is raring to take on the world. He's come out with a new album of revivals entitled "Crossroads" and he has a new movie in the works—"Alyas John Doe."

"Crossroads" speaks of the choices that John now faces in his life and career. The album has less of the angst and the anger of his past compilation, with well-chosen songs like "Skyline Pigeon," "Wild World," "Whiter Shade of Pale," "I'll Never Cry," "I Started a Joke," "Easy," "Father and Son" and "Hard Headed Woman." But the against-the-grain artist is still there with originals like "Why Can't We Ever Get Along?" and "Kontrobersyal."

On the other hand, "Alyas John Doe" is an action-packed slam-banger, intentionally reminiscent of the movies of Bruce Willis, who is John's favorite Hollywood actor.

John is an artist in the womb. When he'll finally be born to the world in all his glorious magnificence is, as he himself predicts, just a matter of time.



PORTER. Raring to take on the world.

ASIN. Comeback album.

Asin mall tour continues July 1

MONTAGE

ASIN launched a series of mall shows yesterday at SM Pampanga to promote its comeback album, "Pag-Ibig, Pagbabago, Pagpapatuloy." The series continues on July 1 at SM Southmall, July 6 at SM Centerpoint, July 13 at SM Bacoor, July 14 at SM Fairview, July 20 at SM Cebu and July 21 at SM Iloilo.

The album contains 11 tracks including the carrier single, "Ang Mahalaga." Asin is Lolita Carbon and Pendong Aban, Jr.

'Froth of July'

Joey invites you to celebrate the American way with its "Froth of July" grand bash at the NBC Tent, The Fort on July 6.The revelry stars at 9:30 p.m. and admission is free.

This is Joey's third time with Uncle Sam. Expect a carnival-like atmosphere with loads of food and drinks plus exciting face painting, henna tattooing, arcade games, neo-prints and more for everyone to enjoy.

For musical entertainment, Joey has invited Bituin Escalante, Anna Fegi, Toy Symphony and Malik. Then watch out for the spectacular fireworks display.

To top off the celebration, Joey will give away a ticket for two to the USA courtesy of Northwest Airlines.

'American X' on Cinemax

Intense racism is the central theme of "American X," showing on Cinemax on July 8 at 9 p.m.

Edward Norton plays reformed skinhead Derek while Edward Furlong plays his brother, Danny who's attracted to Derek's former life as a neo-Nazi.

Other playdates are July 13 at 7 p.m., July 21 at 10:30 p.m., July 25 at 11:45 a.m. and 10:45 p.m. and July 29 at 2:15 p.m.

Family feud

Erlinda Kalaw Ilusorio writes about the feud that hit her family in May of 1998 and continues up to now.

Complimentary copies of her book, "On the Edge of Heaven," are now available at the PI-EKI Foundation, Unit 38. Colonnade Residences, 132 Legaspi st., Legaspi Village, Makati City or call 813-0085.

ASIN/p. F7

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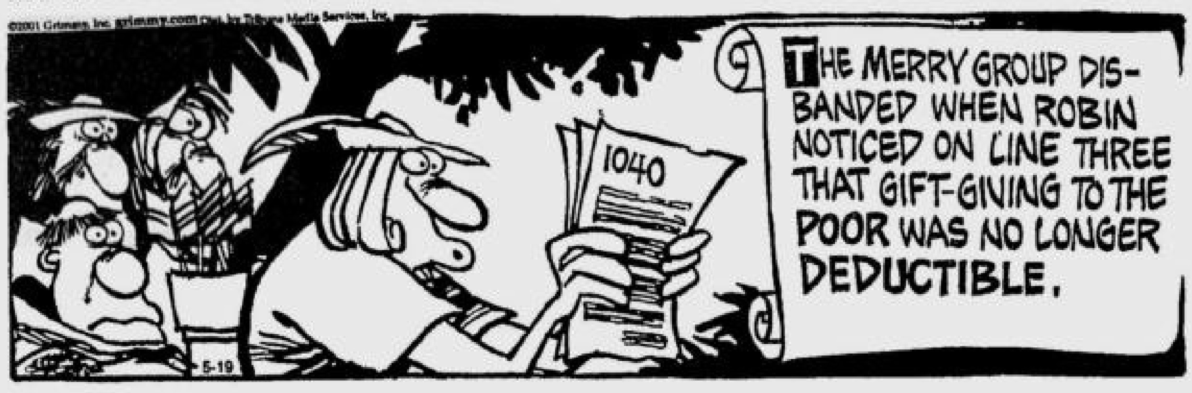
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0635, Series of 2001

CITIBANK

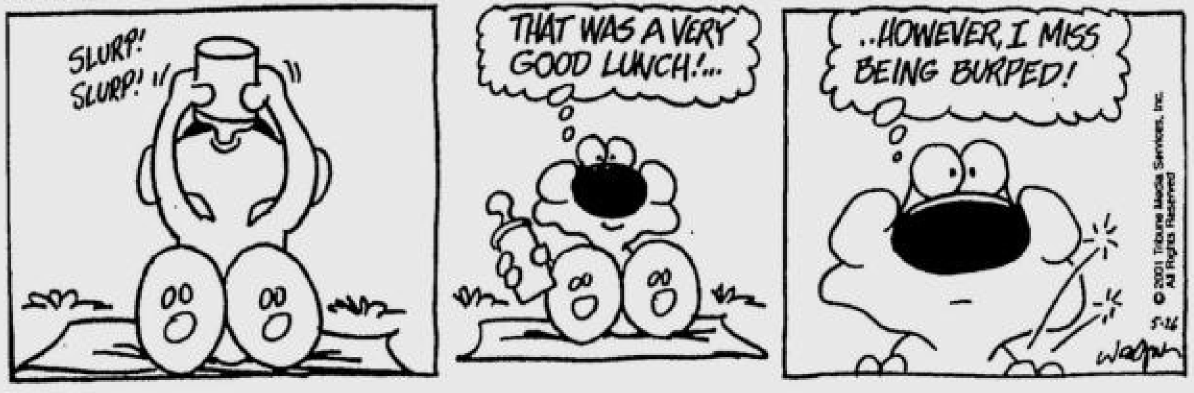
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc.
1040
THE MERRY GROUP DISBANDED WHEN ROBIN NOTICED ON LINE THREE THAT GIFT-GIVING TO THE POOR WAS NO LONGER DEDUCTIBLE.
5-19

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SLURP! SLURP!
THAT WAS A VERY GOOD LUNCH!...
..HOWEVER, I MISS BEING BURPED!
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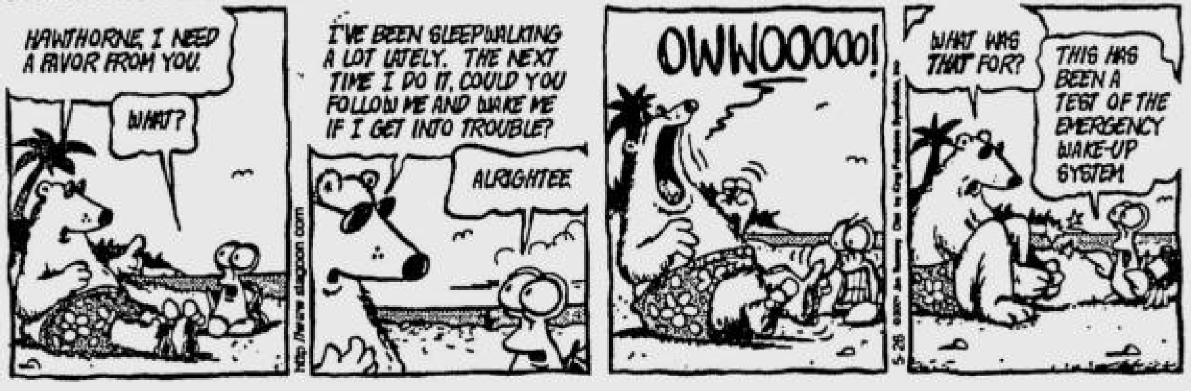
5-16
Wagner

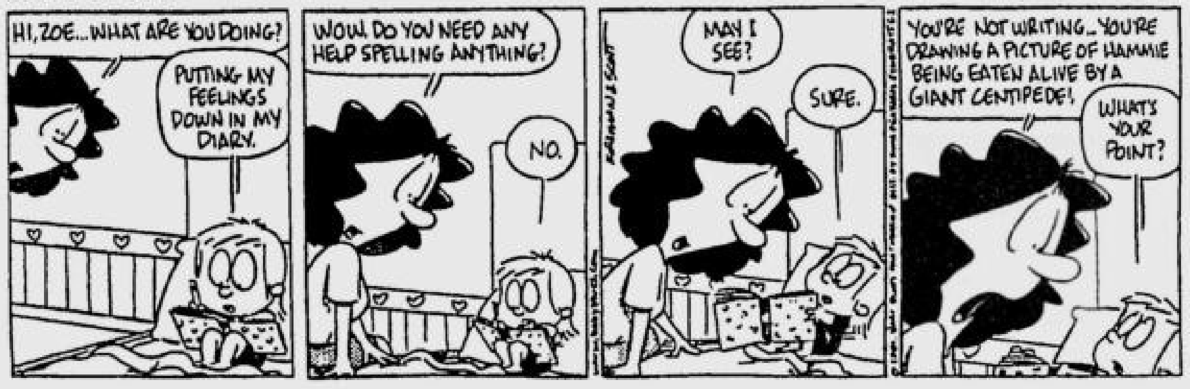
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE, I NEED A FAVOR FROM YOU.
WHAT?
I'VE BEEN SLEEPWALKING A LOT LATELY. THE NEXT TIME I DO IT, COULD YOU FOLLOW ME AND WAKE ME IF I GET INTO TROUBLE?
ALRIGHTEE.
http://www.slagoon.com
OWWOOOOO!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
THIS HAS BEEN A TEST OF THE EMERGENCY WAKE-UP SYSTEM.
5-28

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI, ZOE... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PUTTING MY FEELINGS DOWN IN MY DIARY.
WOW. DO YOU NEED ANY HELP SPELLING ANYTHING?
NO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
MAY I SEE?
SURE.
YOU'RE NOT WRITING... YOU'RE DRAWING A PICTURE OF HAMMIE BEING EATEN ALIVE BY A GIANT CENTIPEDE!
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lena Horne, Buddy Rich, Florence Ballard, David Alan Grier, Vincent D'Onofrio, Mike Tyson

Happy Birthday: Your ability to communicate in such a descriptive manner will help you capture interest this year. You can reach your highest potential by asking for help and calling in favors for your past good deeds. This can be a progressive and successful year if you don't hesitate. Your numbers: 8, 13, 22, 24, 36, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your mate is not likely to be honest. Ask questions and go directly to the source before deciding to take action. Ask for sound advice from someone you respect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't trust your peers. They are likely to twist your words around. It is better to put your thoughts and energy into social activities with loved ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to enjoy the great outdoors. Think about getting together with friends for a fun-filled evening and lots of good conversation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't expect everyone at home to be thrilled with your plans. Be prepared for opposition if you have made all the arrangements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can expect to have a problem getting your point across. Don't impose your beliefs and attitudes on others. It's time to let them do their own thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let anyone pressure you into doing things that you just don't consider proper. You need to put your foot down and state your case. It's time to clear the decks and start over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be anxious today, with not enough to do and too much energy to contain. Run around the block if you have to, but don't start picking on others because you're bored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Problems with in-laws or relatives will test your patience. Don't retaliate; you will regret it. Sort out personal problems with your mate, not your family.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too eager to give in to those who talk convincingly. You can't expect to contribute to every organization looking for donations. Volunteer to collect, not give.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect opposition from your partner. Inevitable changes may cause you to make an unlikely decision. Acceptance is the key to emotional stability. Concentrate on creative endeavors.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have wonderful ideas that will earn rave reviews from friends and colleagues. Take a stance; let others know how you feel. You need to be vocal and put your personal life in order.

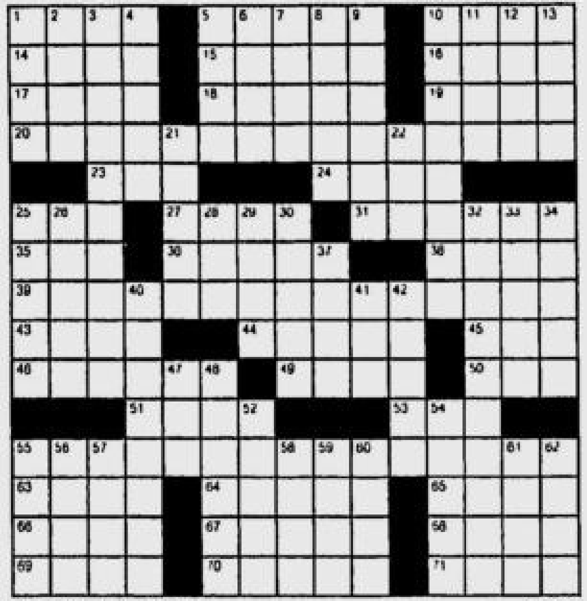
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check your bankbook before you think about spending money. If you have a joint account, you may be surprised to discover how little is left.

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and quick to help others. You will never take no for an answer and will usually get your way. You are determined and will do whatever is necessary to make things happen.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Quick swims
5 Explosion
10 FDR's dog
14 One Ladd
15 Writer Federico Garcia __
16 Current with
17 __-majesty
18 Dwight's rival
19 Exam
20 Telephone installer's advanced training?
23 Swiss canton
24 Weekday abbr.
25 Damage
27 Heroic tale
31 Language quirks
35 Literary snippets
36 Worries
38 Dundee dagger
39 Astronaut's advanced training?
43 Toward shelter
44 First course
45 Possess
46 Smaller of two
49 Justice Bader Ginsburg
50 DC advisory grp.
51 Iditarod ride
53 Ancient
55 Cabinetmaker's advanced training?
63 On the briny
64 Smell
65 Bullets, briefly
66 Ollie's partner in comedy
67 Scatter
68 Dispatched
69 Rocky crags
70 Holy songs
71 Fixer-upper phrase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66 67 68
69 70 71

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
5/15/01

DOWN
1 Broad valley
2 Holm oak
3 Grazing lands
4 Look of contempt
5 Fictional GI
6 New Jersey or California city
7 Singer Guthrie
8 Meager
9 Self-defense system
10 Sci-fi writer
11 Impersonator
12 Defeat
13 Poker fee
21 Female relative
22 African lute
25 Taj __
26 Old-womanish
28 Golf norm
29 Angry states
30 Aromatic tree
32 Features of Russian skylines
33 Cat calls
34 Medicinal plant
37 Takei's "Star Trek" role
40 High, tasseled boots
41 Hipster
42 Like a temporary committee
47 South African golfer Ernie
48 Discuss once more
52 Soiled
54 The Forbidden City of Tibet
55 Eschew comestibles
56 Phrase used in ratios
57 Close by
58 Standard
59 Feds
60 Old adages
61 Science magazine
62 Scads

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	E	B	T	■	O	T	H	E	R	■	B	R	A	D
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W	E	A	N	S	■	E	R	O	S	E	■	C	O	T
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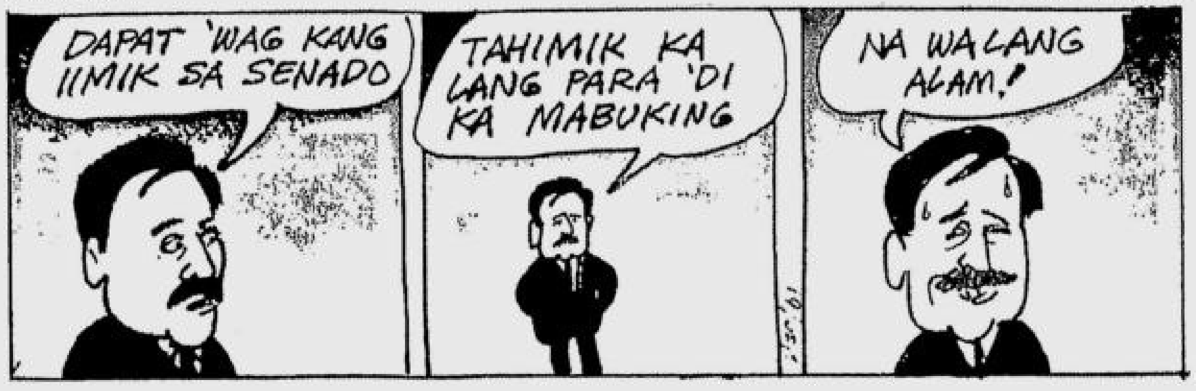
5/15/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

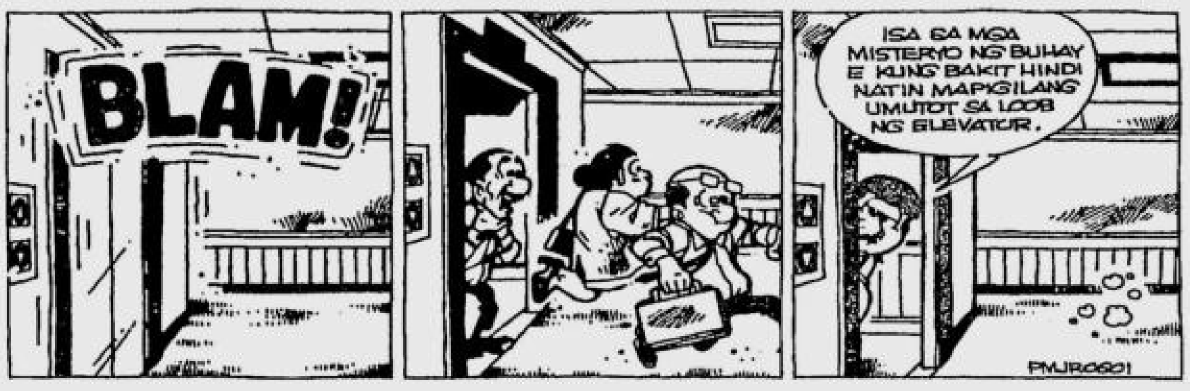
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT 'WAG KANG IIMIK SA SENADO
TAHIMIK KA LANG PARA 'DI KA MABUKING
NA WALANG ALAM!

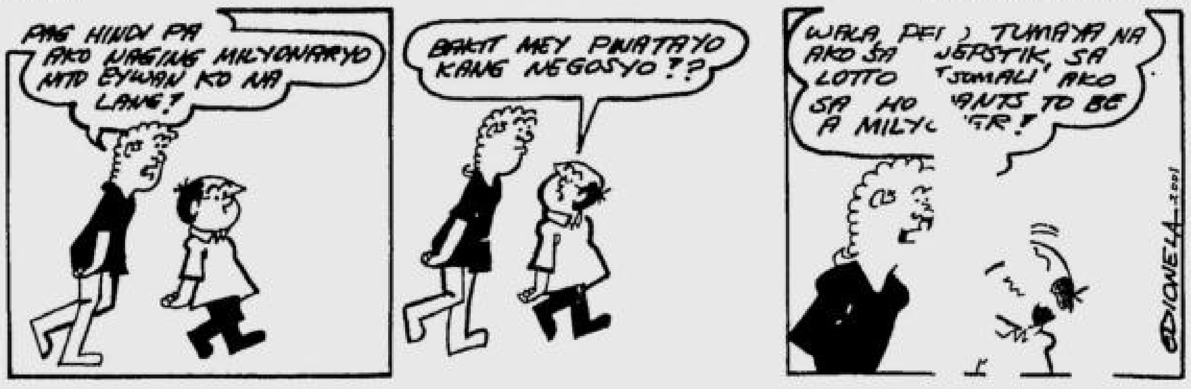
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BLAM!
ISA SA MGA MISTERYO NG BUHAY E KUNG BAKIT HINDI NATIN MAPIGILANG UMUTOT SA LOOB NG ELEVATOR.
PMJR0601

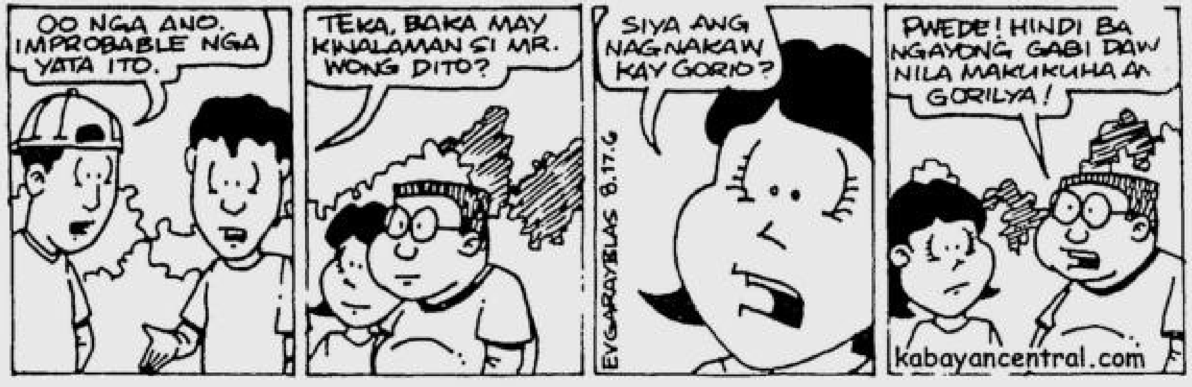
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PAG HINDI PA AKO NAGING MILYONARYO NITO EWAN KO NA LANG!
BAKIT MEY PINATAYO KANG NEGOSYO ?!?
WALA PE) TUMAYA NA AKO SA JERSTIK, SA LOTTO 'JOMALI' AKO SA HO ANTS TO BE A MILY GR!
DIONELA 2001

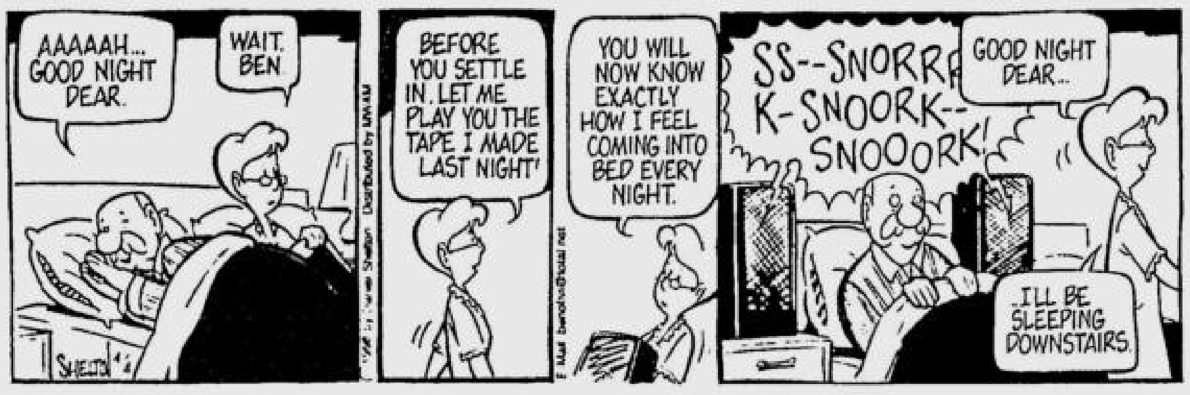
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA, [illegible]VG


OO NGA ANO. IMPROBABLE NGA YATA ITO.
TEKA, BAKA MAY KINALAMAN SI MR. WONG DITO?
EVGARAYBLAS 8.17.6
SIYA ANG NAGNAKAW KAY GORIO?
PWEDE! HINDI BA NGAYONG GABI DAW NILA MAKUKUHA AN GORILYA!
kabayancentral.com

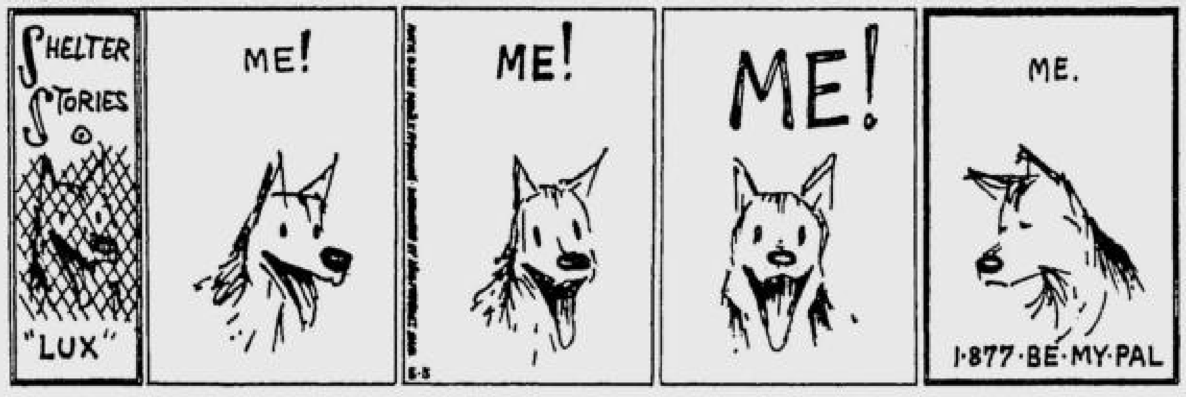
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAAAAH... GOOD NIGHT DEAR.
WAIT. BEN
BEFORE YOU SETTLE IN, LET ME PLAY YOU THE TAPE I MADE LAST NIGHT!
YOU WILL NOW KNOW EXACTLY HOW I FEEL COMING INTO BED EVERY NIGHT.
SS--SNORRR K-SNOORK-- SNOOORK!
GOOD NIGHT DEAR...
...I'LL BE SLEEPING DOWNSTAIRS.
SHELTON

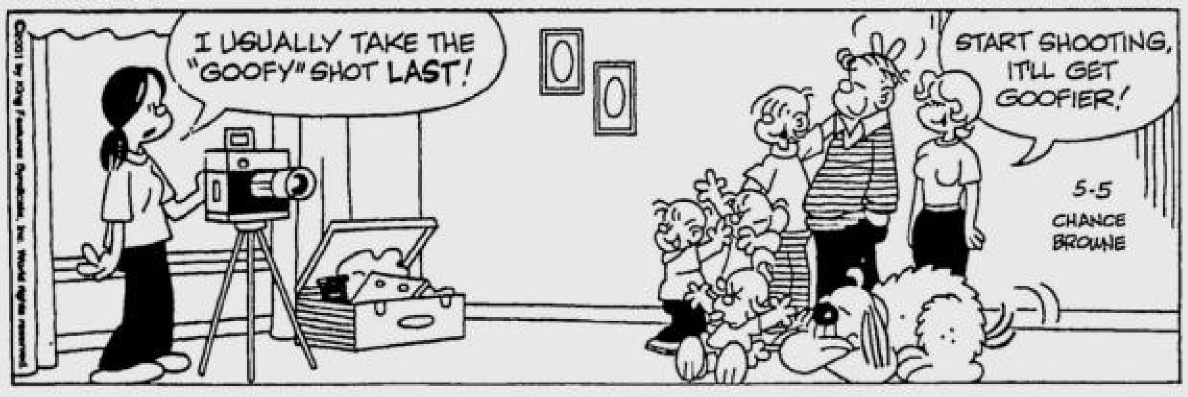
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"LUX"
ME!
ME!
ME!
ME.
1·877·BE·MY·PAL
5-5

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER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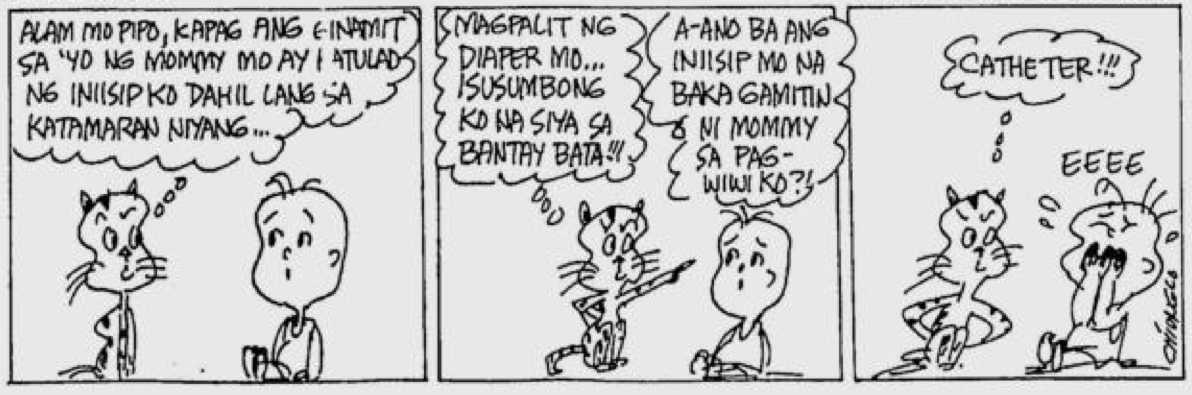
I USUALLY TAKE THE "GOOFY" SHOT LAST!
START SHOOTING, IT'LL GET GOOFIER!
5-5
CHANCE BROWNE

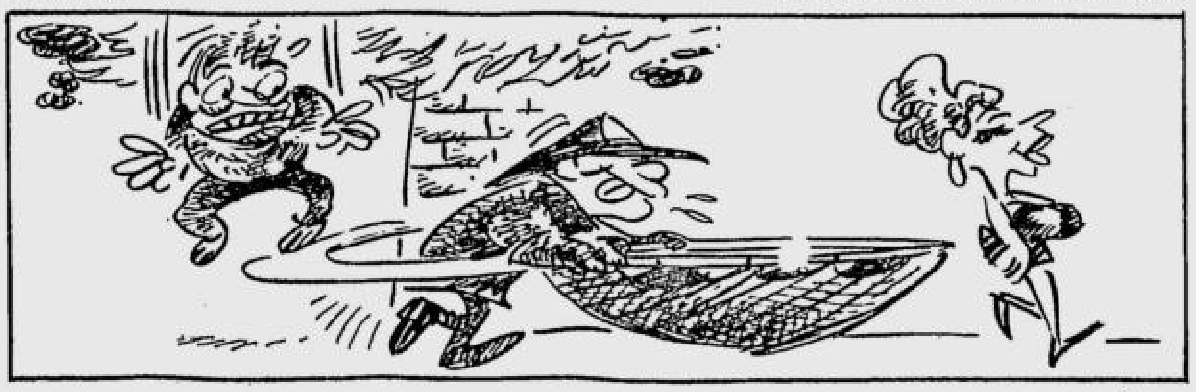
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO PIPO, KAPAG ANG GINAMIT SA 'YO NG MOMMY MO AY I ATULAD NG INIISIP KO DAHIL LANG SA KATAMARAN NIYANG...
MAGPALIT NG DIAPER MO... ISUSUMBONG KO NA SIYA SA BANTAY BATA!!!
A-ANO BA ANG INIISIP MO NA BAKA GAMITIN NI MOMMY SA PAG-WIWI KO?!
CATHETER!!!
EEEE
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



MEXICAN director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu at this year's Oscar awards. AP

Mexican movies make a comeback

By Traci Carl

MEXICO CITY—Forget Mexico's traditional cinematic endeavors: lightly veiled excuses to show women in tiny bikinis, duels between professional wrestlers and the misadventures of an Indian woman named Maria.

Latest films

Its latest films are gritty, critical; sometimes funny commentaries on modern life in Mexico—and, some say, may hark a return to Mexico's "golden age" of cinema.

The trend seems to be part of the growing interest in Latino entertainment both in the United States and in Latin America itself.

Just look at the success of Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez or Antonio Banderas.

Mexico's movie business just had its first Oscar nomination in 26 years and people are packing theaters showcasing a variety of homegrown films along with the usual subtitled Hollywood flicks.

"It's in fashion at this stage. A few years ago, you couldn't get two dimes to make a Mexican movie," said Richard Ham, who helped produce one of Mexico's most popular recent films, "Amores Perros" ("Love's a Dog").

Model

Nominated for an Oscar as best foreign film, "Amores Perros" consists of three very different stories: those of a model, a vagabond hit man and a poor Mexico City youth in love with his brother's wife. The three stories are tied together by a car crash that opens the film—and by the dogs that each character owns.

As director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's debut, the film won over many critics. It also was the most successful Mexican film at the box office last year, earning nearly $10 million at home and costing only $2.2 million to make.

Its success, as well as its Oscar nomination, has opened opportunities not only for its director, but for other Latin American filmmakers.

"Years ago we were ashamed to go to a Mexican film," Gonzalez Inarritu said. "Now we are prepared to see ourselves, to accept ourselves through cinema. We have the same problems, but with a new attitude about how we express ourselves and how we tell our own stories."

"Amores Perros" wasn't the first film to take a hard look at Mexican culture.

Another popular recent film, "La Ley de Herodes" ("Herod's Law"), follows the rise, fall and rise again of a local politician who learns that being corrupt is the only way to survive within the single-party political system that reigned in Mexico until last year.

Coming-of-age movie

There are lighter films, too, like "Por la Libre"—"Dust to Dust" in English—a coming-of-age movie about two cousins who sneak off to Acapulco to scatter their grandfather's ashes in the ocean against their parents' wishes.

The boom in the Mexican film industry hasn't come overnight. It started roughly 10 years ago, and has been growing ever since. Although most Mexican actors still rely on the country's highly popular soap operas to make a living, many nighttime television stars are popping up on the big screen.

Actors and producers attribute the industry's rise to the growing number of theaters that have room for Mexican films.

Ham, who recently started his own Mexico City-based company geared toward the film industry, attributes the growth to a resurgent national pride.

"Five or 10 years ago, anyone with any money wanted to move to Miami," he said.

Still, it could be over in an instant, back to the B-movies of the 1970s when professional wrestlers and an Indian named Maria entertained audiences with zany antics and save-the-day endings.

"It's in its infancy what's happening," Ham said. "Until the kid grows up a bit, we won't know if it will be a flash in the pan or something great."

Level

If it continues to grow, many believe Mexico's film industry could return to the level of the 1940s and '50s, when it wasn't uncommon for more than 100 Hollywood-quality movies to be made each year in Mexico.

The industry was not only productive, but financially successful and respected. Three of Mexico's five Oscar-nominated films were made in the early 1960s.

"I don't think we are going to go back to the numbers of the great Mexican film industry," Ham said, referring to the millions who used to flock to see Mexican movies. "I do think we are going to go back to the pride of the golden age."

More Mexican films have meant bigger Mexican audiences.

"Amores Perros" was made to target a generation of Mexicans that had grown up watching American—not Mexican—films, but was tired of the same thing, said the film's executive producer, Martha Sosa.

"We were lucky to prove this audience really exists," she said. *AP*

Asin mall tour . . .

(From page F5)

Caterer joins trade fair

Auffrance, the catering company owned by the mother and son tandem of Nini S. Ramos and Ramon S. Ramos and managed by chef Brando Marasigan and Nina Ramos Marasigan, joins Primetrade Asia, Inc. in "Corporate Show .01" to be held on July 9 to 11.

The company has been servicing various types of events from private affairs to corporate and government functions. Call Primetrade Asia Inc. at 896-0661 or 896-0682.

"Corporate Show .01" is presented by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Centrex Corp.

Young stars in Baguio City

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza in Baguio mounts another star-studded weekend as it celebrates the fourth leg of its Grand Opening Salvo Series tomorrow with a motorcade at 1 p.m. and a variety show that starts at 3 p.m.

Featured in the show are former Streetboys member Danilo Barrios, Close-Up image model Rafael Rosell, young actor Luis Alandy, sexy star Michelle Bayle, the DTM dancers and Shalala. Call 910-6228.

Raffle draw

Fiesta World Mall in Lipa City will be giving away fabulous prizes on the first draw of its "Kotseng Pamigay ng Fiesta World Mall" promo.

The second draw is scheduled on Sept. 29 while the third is on Dec. 29. The grand draw will be held on March 30, 2002. A red Kia Rio Notchback will be given away.

Merchandising tie-up

Star Cinema will soon release another youth-oriented movie, "Trip." To promote the film, ABS-CBN Consumer Products, the licensing and merchandising company of ABS-CBN, recently inked a deal with Roshan Commercial Corp., makers of 98 Degrees eyewear and Islands Souvenirs for the exclusive release and distribution of "Trip" eyewear, apparel and accessories.

Present during the contract signing were Roshan Sales Supervisor Aida Trinidad, ABS-CBN Products Inc.'s managing director Lani Chua and licensing manager Felbin Soto, Islands Souvenirs marketing director Lyndon Angan and "Trip" production manager Tess Fuentes.

Asha meets Maurice Gibb

Join Channel V Int'l veejay Asha in the next installment of "Asha Meets." This time, it's Maurice Gibb who will the special guest on July 5 at 6 p.m. Find out about the start of the Bee Gees, their life above a chip shop, their latest album in four years and Maurice's odd fascination for paintballing.

Underwater cowboys

Learn more about commercial diving in episode four of "Pioneers of the Deep" on the National Geographic Channel on July 4 at 9 p.m. Commercial divers have risked life and limb working underwater on oil rigs, salvage operations, and deep sea mining.

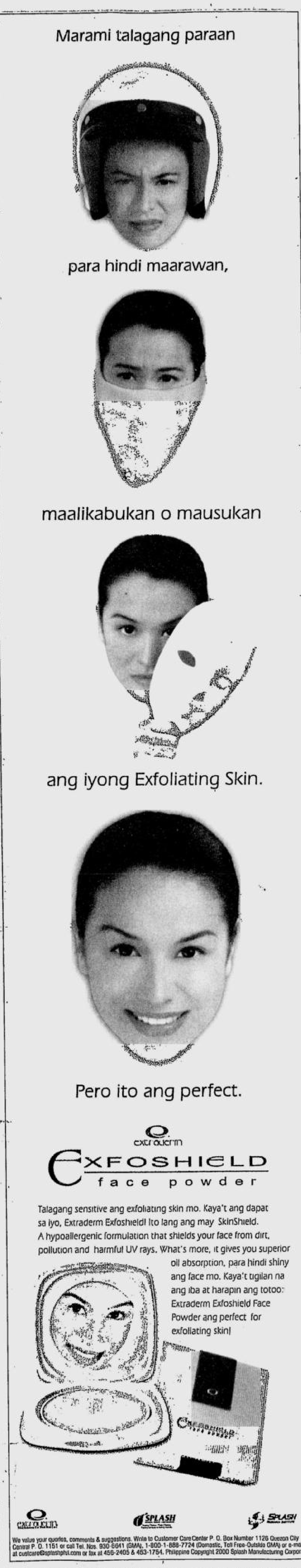
Technological advances like the aqualung, breathing gas, and underwater vehicles have allowed humans to accomplish amazing things at the bottom of the ocean.

Tribute to Fr. Hontiveros

Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, composer of such songs as "Kahanga-hanga," "Sa Dapithapon," "Paghahandog sa Sarili" and "Pananagutan" is considered the father of Filipino liturgical music.

"Pananagutan: A Lifetime of Music and Love," features the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gerard Salonga at the UP Theater on July 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. as a tribute to "Fr. Honti."

Special guests are Carol Banawa, Noel Cabangon, a 100-voice choir and Fr. Manoling Francisco, S.J. Call 426-5971 or 426-6101 ext. 3425. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)



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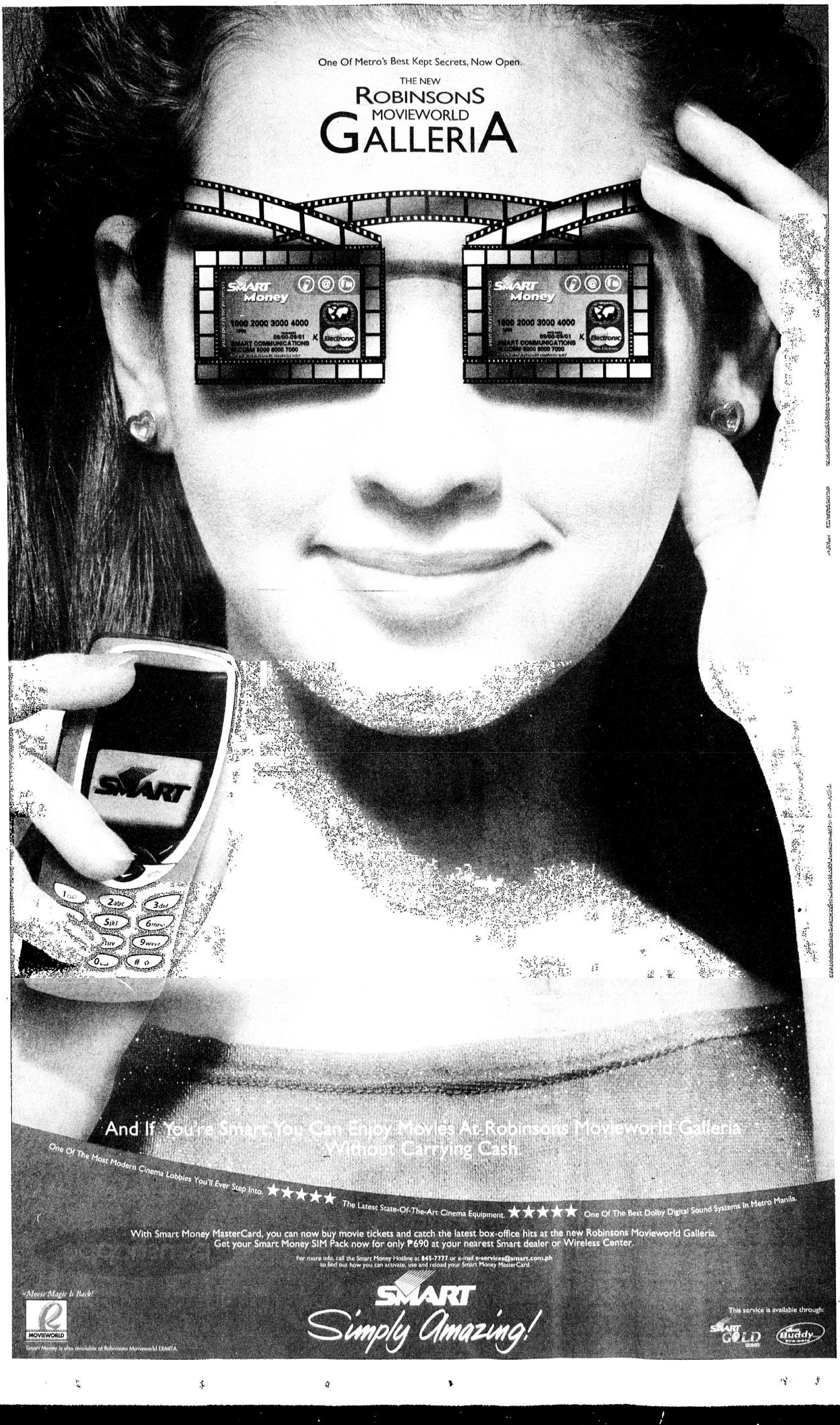

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Saturday SPECIAL

‘Wingspan’ is Paul McCartney’s flight through musical history

McCARTNEY: His band's new album “shows the trials and tribulations we had to go through to make the group.”

AFTER the worldwide record-breaking success of The Beatles’ “1” album, comes “Wingspan: Paul McCartney Hits & History” a deluxe double album set containing 17 hot-selling singles and 24 tracks from nine No. 1 albums by ex-Beatles’ frontman Paul McCartney and his band Wings.

40 tracks

Through 40 tracks and over an hour and a half of music, “Wingspan” traces the hits (on disc 1) and history (on disc 2) of one of the most successful careers in music history. And this two-CD collection goes for the price of a single album.

The album traces the history of Wings from the band's beginnings after the historic break-up of The Beatles in the early '70s through the end of the decade.

As McCartney relates, “It shows the trials and tribulations that we had to go through to make a group and to make it successful and, at the same time, how Linda and I were raising a family. It's an intimate scrapbook of us during that time, charting the dramatic turns of events that we dealt with . . .”

The milestone collection contains old favorites like “Live And Let Die,” “Silly Love Songs,” “No More Lonely Nights,” “Band On The Run,”

WINGSPAN/p.G3

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1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every ₱1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. For the weekly draw, the following shall apply:
- Three (3) winners will win back amount of EPS purchase up to a maximum of ₱5,000 per winner (minimum ₱1,000).
- Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase on a particular day are valid for that week only.
- An accountholder can win only ONCE in each week's draw. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
- All draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
- The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
- There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
- All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
- The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
- Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
- Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
- An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
- All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (drivers license, Company ID, SSS).
6. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations;
* BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City
* BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
* BPI Baguio-Burnham Branch, Baguio City
* BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
8. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
9. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
10. All employees of BPI Unibank, its PR and advertising agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
11. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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Disney on sound footing despite summer stumbles, analysts say

BY GARY GENTILE

LOS ANGELES—The long-term outlook for the Walt Disney Co. remains strong, despite this summer's stumbles at its new theme park and at the box office, analysts say.

Sluggish economy

Like many large media companies, Disney is suffering the effects of low consumer confidence and a sluggish economy. Advertising spending has declined, reducing revenue at the company's ABC television and radio networks, and people are postponing expensive vacations, resulting in lower attendance at Disney's theme parks.

Disney has also experienced stiff competition at the box office this summer, some of it from its own marketing machine.

The $150 million World War II epic "Pearl Harbor" is expected to make money for Disney, but has not been the blockbuster the studio had expected. And the hand-animated "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," had a weak national opening last weekend against the live action "Tomb Raider" from Paramount and is likely to be overshadowed through the summer by the computer-animated "Shrek" from DreamWorks SKG.

Adding to Disney's woes are the resignation this week of its studio chief, Peter Schneider, after only 17 months on the job and continuing problems attracting visitors to its latest theme park, Californian Adventure, in Anaheim.

New attraction

This week, Disney said it would cut admission prices for Southern California residents by $10 through the summer and allow one child in for free. Disney has reintroduced its famous electrical parade to the park and will open a new attraction in the fall based on its hit television game show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

"They will make this work," said David Miller, an analyst at Sutro & Co. "Disney will continue to tweak the asset. They've had this situation before with Euro Disney. They had this situation before with Epcot. Even Disney's Animal Kingdom in 1998 opened to lackluster attendance in a bang-up economy and that is now doing well."

A DVD version of "Snow White" is due in the fall.

Investors have not abandoned the stock, which was been hovering around $30 for weeks. Its stock closed down 91 cents at $29.19 in trading Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

And analysts say that despite expectations of lower earnings in the next quarter, the company should rebound by the end of the year and into 2002.

"If you look at a chart, in the latter half of 1992, after the Federal Reserve decreased interest rates, just like they are doing now, Disney stock was up over 30 percent in the back half of 1992," Miller said.

Serious challenges

The company still faces serious challenges. Disney is shutting many of its money-draining retail stores and remodeling the rest, increasing the shelf space and the products sold. It is also entering into new licensing agreements, offering Disney-branded juices, toothbrushes and clothes at stores such as JC Penney and KMart.

Disney should see significant revenue from the release of "Snow White" on DVD in the fall, according to Merrill Lynch analyst Jessica Reif Cohen. And its computer-animated film, "Monsters, Inc.," made with its "Toy Story" partners, Pixar Animation, should also do well in a fall theatrical release.

Nevertheless, Cohen last week revised her earnings estimates for Disney for the third quarter and the fiscal year. She said Disney's earnings per share should drop 10 percent in the third quarter, to 21 cents, compared with 23 cents in the same quarter last year.

Revenue should decline one percent to roughly $6 billion, Cohen said.

AP

TEN YEARS AGO

Kuh, Jamie evince staying power in the biz

BY LEIA TORRE

THE PASSAGE of years can be used as a measure of a performer's ability success in show business. Effective entertainers go on to become the stars in their chosen fields when they are still able to hold the attention of a lot of people.

A really effective entertainer would still be active in show business after 10 years, while those who are less talented have dropped by the wayside. To give us an idea about which stars possess "staying power," here are some events that were happening 10 years ago this week, and the people responsible for making them happen:

Concert series

Kuh Ledesma concluded her concert series at the LA Shrine Auditorium. Her concert tour covered San Francisco, Dallas, San Diego, New York, and St. Louis in the United States, and Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Montreal in Canada. Her performances in this Spring Tour concert, billed as "Tour de Force," were attended by both Filipinos and Americans.

Jamie Rivera was chosen to play the role of "Kim" in the Broadway hit "Miss Saigon," despite many expectations to the contrary. She was reported to have one of the most powerful voices of all the women who had sung the role of Kim. This was considered a remarkable improvement because, when Jamie had first auditioned for the musical, she was criticized for her small voice.

Joey Albert marked her 10th year in show business. After having completed a successful tour of key provincial cities, a round of convention performances, and a major event at the Araneta Coliseum, the entertainer was again preparing for a one-of-a-kind concert. The show was entitled "Ten . . . and Then".

Latest comeback

The opening of the movie "The Secrets of Pura" marked the latest comeback of Alma Moreno. As usual, the actress made this movie under the direction of Joey Gosiengfiao. Like her two earlier comebacks, both also under Gosiengfiao, "The Secrets of Pura" made a killing at the box office.

LEDESMA. Spring tour.

RIVERA. Powerful voice.

The immortal Filipino classic "Kenkoy," created by Tony Velasquez, returned this time not only to the pages of newspapers and *komiks* but onstage as "Kenkoy Loves Rosing," a musical comedy.

Playing the lead roles were Janno Gibbs as Kenkoy and Regine Velasquez as Rosing. Others in the cast were Mitch Valdes, Joji Isla, Alan Bautista and Noel Trinidad. Arlene Borja, Errol Dionisio, Malu de Guzman, Christine Bersola, Andy Bais, Ding Lucina, and Bong Gacho lent their support to the show. The script was written by Boy Noriega, and the music composed and arranged by Bob Serrano and Archie Castillo.

Hotdog, the group responsible for the type of music dubbed as "Manila Sound," made a comeback after most of its members had left the group to pursue solo careers. After a two-year lull, Rene Garcia, the only remaining original member, was compelled to formulate the group, in answer to requests by its loyal fans. Due to the impossibility of gathering all the original musicians back.

New members

Rene auditioned for new members who were adept in playing at least four instruments. The group had just wrapped up its series of mini-concerts in small clubs and music lounges, and was gearing up for a major concert, "Sari-Saring Hotdog." The group also planned to come out with a new album for Viva Records, which was to be launched in time for their concert.

Entertainment journalist, TV host, and public relations man Oskee Salazar was given a special recognition during the Awit Awards of the Philippine Association of the Record Industry (Pari) at the Metropolitan Theater. Salazar founded the Awit Awards in 1969, when Pari was still non-existent. He also fathered the Star Awards of the Philippine Movie Press Club in 1985.

Gabby Concepcion departed from his glamour-boy image and went "action" in his Regal Films starrer, "Gabo-Boga." The actor claimed that he was ready for a change of pace.

In the movie, he played an honest cop who goes into a revengeful rampage when his father, also a cop, was killed in the line of duty. This incident made the character vow to be unforgiving toward criminal elements. Playing his leading lady in the film was Donita Rose.

KUH,JAMIE/P.G3

AM/FM

Learning about Vilma's Dolzura and Gellie's Sarah Jane on Davao radio

BY RITO P. ASILO

ON OUR recent trip to Davao with the production team of "The Vagina Monologues," which included actresses Tami Monsod, Dulce Aristorenas, Lara Fabregas, and Project Coordinator Brando Ortega, we had the opportunity to check out Davao's radio scene, through Apo View Hotel's in-house radio—and through a car radio on our two-hour trip from Davao City to rural Padada, in Davao del Sur.

Fond memories

We have fond memories of the place because we visited it during the "Magnificat" tour some two years ago with theater actors Andy Bais and Rossana Ordoñez, and we first discovered the joys of "*ukay-ukay*" shopping.

Quite a number of the FM stations we tuned in to around the 6 to 8 p.m. time-slot, from Magic 104.3 to Yes 105.1, cater to rock and folk/country music more than pop and OPM, although there were pleasant surprises, too.

Our first impression was that these programs were suspended in time-stuck in the '80s. Either they probably had not heard yet of Nelly, Staind or Limp Bizkit, or they just preferred the tried and tested kind.

The experience of listening to these programs made us feel so far removed from Manila's fast-paced lifestyle.

Jeepney

While crouched in the passenger seat, busy scribbling notes about the radio show we were listening to, the scene in front of us kept stealing our attention—a fully loaded passenger jeepney bursting with commuters inside and on top of its hopefully sturdy rooftop!

We counted eight passengers seated uncomfortably, seemingly unaware of how danger-prone they were, bunched tightly together on top of the vehicle.

In front of the jeep was a tricycle (thereabouts, they call it 'pedicab') which was equally filled to capacity, and with two teenagers on its roof!

Then Glenn Frey's brooding rock classic, "You Belong to the City," from the 1985 soundtrack of Don Johnson's TV glam cop series, "Miami Vice," blared through the radio to draw us back to listen to other rock favorites of the '70s and '80s: the Cars' new wave hit, "You Might Think," the Police's "De Doo Doo Doo De Da Da Da" (nice song, but what a title!); Bon Jovi's 1992 monster hit, "Bed of Roses" and the earlier "You Give Love A Bad Name;" Billy Idol's psychedelia, "White Wedding;" the Outfield's Top 10 hit, "Your Love;" Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA;" Seals and Croft's drippy "First Love;" Toto's "Amanda;" Men at Work's fun-filled 1981 hit, "Who Can It Be Now;" Lou Reid's funky "Bad Case of Loving You;" and Steppenwolf's "Born to Be Wild."

The last song was so infectious it made us wish we were on a Harley to cruise the southern highway to nearby Borneo, in Indonesia—or is it still the Philippines"?

Visayan twang

From time to time, we were jolted by DJs with a very characteristic Visayan twang courageous enough to announce the time in English: "It's tarty minutes apter payv o'clock!" Hey, guys, why not say it in Tagalog or Visayan, instead? No one will think less of you if you do.

The following morning, we tuned in to the first radio program we hit on the AM band as we dialled our Walkman.

We were very pleased to discover that ABS-CBN's radio station in Davao, broadcast over 1296 kHz on AM, had so much to offer.

The radio show, "Diskurso," hosted by Jun Tariman and Tina Junsay, proves that, while their hosts are as knowledgeable about issues as their news and pubic affairs counterparts in Manila's dzBB and dzRH, these hosts are more likeable than a number of Luzon's prominent news commentators.

Their social conscience sounds more sincere, more committed to the welfare of the *masa*. The ABS-CBN Manila bureau has a thing or two to learn from its Southern Mindanao pool of talents.

Issues

When they discussed issues—which ranged from Talikala Inc. and Gabriela's uphill fight against spousal and child abuse, rape, prostitution; problem counselling on puppy love and infatuation, pre-marital sex and teen-age pregnancy; the accelerating drug menace; sexual orientation; HIV and AIDS cases in Davao—the "discourse" was usually very spirited and engaging.

It was entertaining and, at the same time, such a relief from the usual negative aura you get from listening to Manila's jaded commentators. And we learned from it!

LEARNING/p.G3

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 30 – JULY 6

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 The Working President 8:00 Sound of Love 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vanpires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *The Punisher* 11.00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST *Bad Girls* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 Sports World 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Star Olympics 2001 Part 2* 11:00 Business Class	7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Provincial Game	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3.00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Bob Hope* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *John Candy* 9:00 E! Special *Heatwave Special* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Lyle Lovett* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Julia Roberts* 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Fashion Watch 11:00 Business & Leisure	6.00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies 12.00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6.00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darnest Thing 9.00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! True Hollywood Special *O.J., Ron & Nicole Countdown to Murder* 9.00 E! Special *Theme Parks A Go-Go '98* 11:00 The Best of 60 minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 To be announced 7:00 To be announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 To be announced	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 Guni-Guni 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10.30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	7:30 NBA Action 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Bali* 12:00 Talk Soup
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8.00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 To be Announced 9:00 To be Announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Bayan Ni Juan 7:00 DMZ TV 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 NBA Finals (Replay) 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Gloria Estefan* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 MBA 8:00 To be Announced 9:00 To be Announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9.00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8.00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7.00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9.00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Women of the Net on E!* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On *Tinseltown* 12:00 Talk Soup
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8.00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 8.00 To be Announced 9.00 To be Announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8.00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10.30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 TeleViva Specials 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9.00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Pulsong Masa 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Concert At The Park	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Gags Must be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Women of WCW* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *South Beach* 12:00 Talk Soup

‘Wingspan’ . . .

(From page G1)

Songs,” “No More Lonely Nights,” “Band On The Run,” “With A Little Luck” and other personal McCartney favorites such as “Mull Of Kintyre,” “Jet,” “My Love,” “Pipes Of Peace,” “Maybe I’m Amazed,” “Helen Wheels,” “Girlfriend,” “Take It Away” and “Tug Of War.”

Photographs

Music buffs will have more than their fill of vital musical history as this collection also features a great selection of photographs covering the entire Wings era, with an endorsement from McCartney himself and an introduction written by Beatles expert and author Mark Lewisohn. You can also check out the new Paul McCartney website at www.paulmccartney.com.

And to all those people who might give this album a try, Paul McCartney has this to say: “This ‘Hits And History’ collection also includes many of my favorite Paul McCartney and Wings tracks. Whether you’re hearing them for the first time, or you were around in the 1970s and have memories of the songs, I hope you enjoy checking out what I think was some of my best work.”

Learning . . .

(From page G2)

It was so intelligent and informative that we had to stop reading the dailies to listen closely. The hosts were headstrong but didn’t have a trace of arrogance. The show didn’t come across as lecturing or insulting.

Difference

They would discuss issues that not even a lot of Manileños would be very knowledgeable about, like the difference between men and women, and they would quote edicts from John Grey’s best-selling book, “Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus.”

We learned that 35 women and 40 children are under the care of the city’s DSWD due to abuse-related situations; that Davao has nine HIV/AIDS cases, eight of whom have either died, moved on unmonitored to other places in the country or gone into hiding, while only one is left unmonitored; that the well-known AIDS patient Sarah Jane Salazar (whose life was turned into a movie starring Gellie de Belen) worked as a prostitute in Davao but was diagnosed to have the deadly disease in Cotabato; that Dolzura Cortez, the former OFW who contracted the virus, (her life story was also made into an award-winning movie starring Vilma Santos) also came from Cotabato, and that former tennis champion Arthur Ashe got the dreaded disease from his dentist. Ouch!

So much information for so little time. Keep up the good work, guys! Now, if only Davao did not vote 13-0 in favor of Puwersa ng Masa, we would have been completely impressed.

But then again, nobody’s perfect.

Kuh, Jamie . . .

(From page G2)

Awards night

ABS-CBN’s late-night show “Oh No, It’s Johnny!” held its first-ever awards night, as host Johnny Litton and co-host Maurice Arcache welcomed 250 guests to the show. The program gave it own awards to celebrities and guests who had contributed unique qualities to its telecasts.

Raymart Santiago made his action-picture debut in “Noel Juico, 16: Batang Kriminal.” Director Deo Fajardo, who also wrote the story and screenplay of the movie, felt that Raymart was perfect for the role. Also in the cast: Edu Manzano, Pinky de Leon, and Kier Legaspi.

On the international scene, Mariah Carey came out with her fourth hit, “I Don’t Wanna Cry.” Mariah is a gifted ex-gospel singer-songwriter with a seven-octave voice. This voice and her prolific songwriting skills combine well with her glamorous personality.

Her debut single was entitled “Vision of Love,” and it was followed by another ballad, “Love Takes Time,” then with her first dance single, “Someday.” Then came “I Don’t Wanna Cry.” All these singles were co-written by Mariah.

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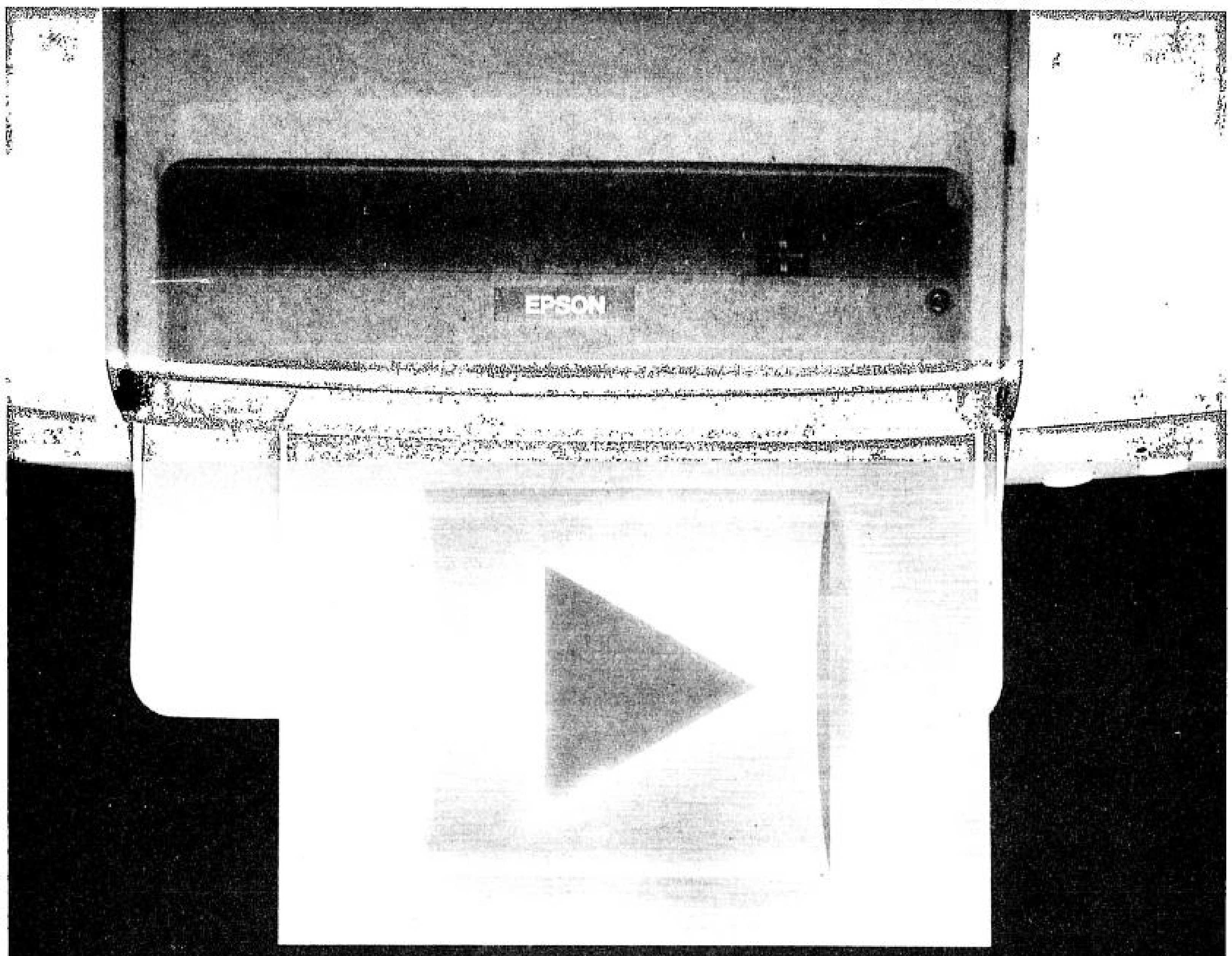

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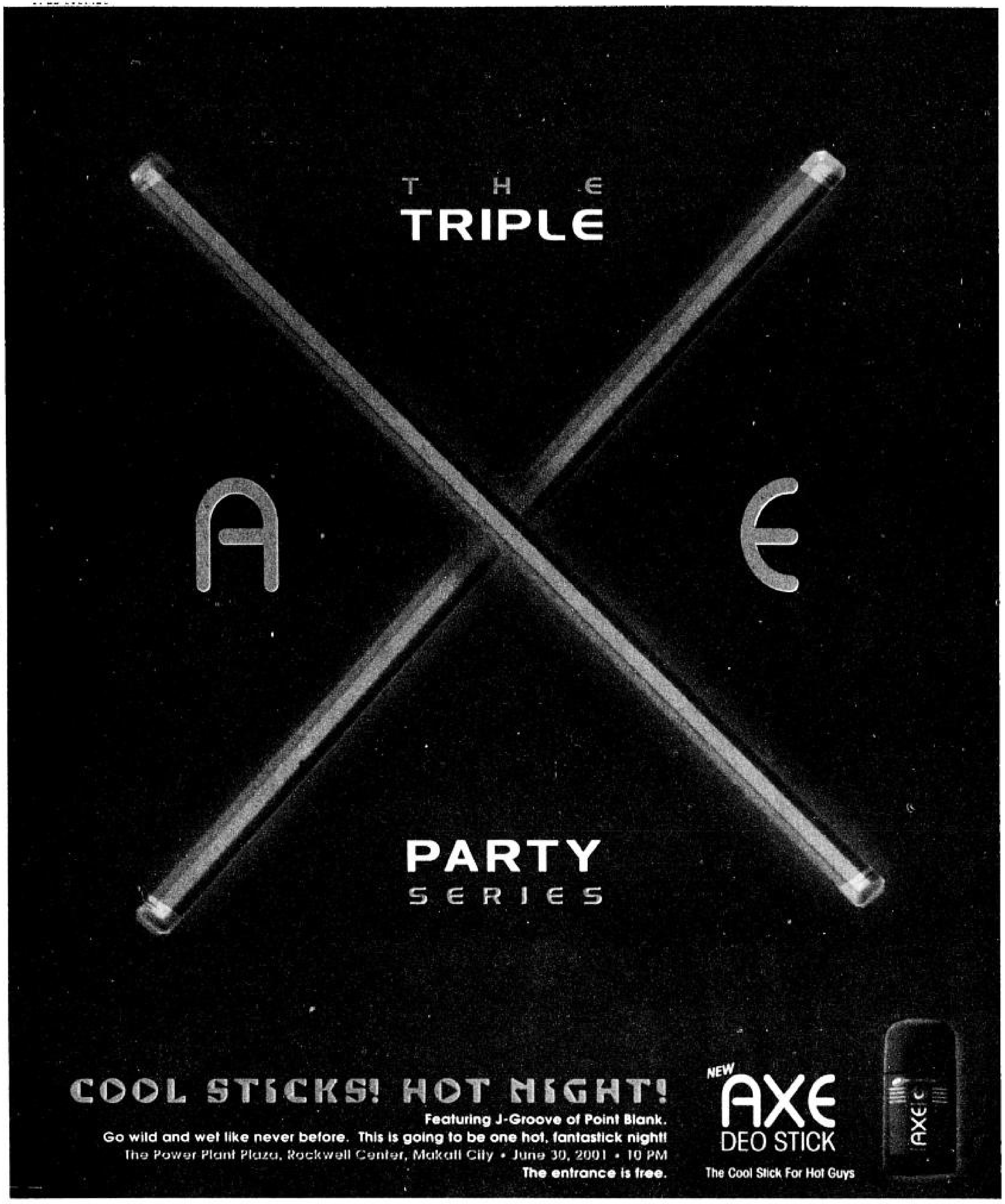

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Mel Gibson's daring career decisions through the years

By Nestor U. Torre

GIBSON. At the top of the film heap.

A MOVIE star's career is the result of the choices he makes along the way. The more correct choices he makes, the bigger a star he becomes. By that yardstick, superstar Mel Gibson must have made some brilliantly astute choices through the years, right?

Sheer survival

Uh, not quite. In fact, as Gibson looks back on his career now, he realizes that some of those all-important choices weren't really his to make. This was particularly true during his early years as a struggling actor, when sheer survival was a dire necessity.

That's why, right after drama school, he agreed to act in "Mad Max" and its sequel, "The Road Warrior." Those quickie actioners did nothing to establish his acting credentials, but they did give him some exposure when he needed it most, and paid some bills.

Tribute

It's a tribute to Gibson's talent that, even after doing those two cheap flicks, he was able to get good projects like Peter Weir's "Gallipoli." Agreeing to star in that war epic was a pleasure for Gibson, and he took full advantage of the big break.

Later, Weir further firmed up Gibson's stellar career by casting him as the male lead in "The Year of Living Dangerously."

Then, Gibson decided to try his luck in Hollywood. Looking back now, he realizes that the move was premature because he hadn't made enough of a mark in Australian movies to get American producers excited about hiring him.

Major projects

But he had made his move, so he had to make-do with so-so films that did little to improve his chances of getting the truly important studios and directors interested in using him in their major projects.

So, he coasted along with movies like "The Bounty" (with Anthony Hopkins) and "Mrs. Soffel" (Diane Keaton), before he hit it big with "Lethal Weapon" in 1987.

In the cops-and-killers movie directed by Richard Donner, Gibson played an offbeat character, an undercover cop who was a borderline psychotic. He was given a partner who was his exact opposite, a stable family man (Danny Glover), and audiences found the contrast in their characters hugely interesting.

Drug ring

In the first "Lethal Weapon" movie, Gibson and Glover went after a vicious drug ring. Reviewers generally liked the film despite its "cartoonish" look. One of them described it as a "loud, violent, trashy cop movie done to a turn; fast-paced and entertaining, as long as you don't think about it too much."

With a hit on his hands, Gibson knew he had a good thing going, so he readily agreed to do sequels that also fared well at the tills.

"Lethal Weapon 2" was described as "superslick and possibly even more entertaining. This time around, our heroes tangle with a nefarious smuggling kingpin who hides behind diplomatic immunity—but doesn't reckon with Gibson's reckless ways."

Former cop

What about "Lethal Weapon 3"? "Glover is about to retire when he and partner Gibson find themselves in the midst of an escalating war with a former cop turned criminal mastermind. Despite lazy writing and pointless plot turns, the film still manages to crank out enough thrills, laughs and violent action to rate as acceptable escapism."

Despite some low moments, the "Lethal Weapon" film series gave Gibson's stellar career a big boost, priming him for more "legit" success in such movies as "Braveheart," "Conspiracy Theory" and "The Patriot."

Some of these productions were risky ventures in terms of box office potential, but Gibson had acquired enough confidence in his talent and bankability to embark on them.

Rebel warrior

He even directed "Braveheart" himself, and was heartened when the film was hailed as "a big, booming epic tale of 13th-century Scottish rebel warrior William Wallace. The film manages to tell a gripping personal story that grows in scale through a series of eye-popping battle scenes. A powerful, passionate film about a powerful, passionate man."

"Braveheart" ended up winning Oscars for Best Picture, Director, Cinematography, Make-up and Sound Effects. Gibson's daring decision to make the film despite the risks involved was fully vindicated, and he's gone on to achieve similar successes that have made him one of the most bankable star-directors in Hollywood.

Would that other stars were as daring and confident in the career choices they make. Then they would have a greater chance of also ending up at the top of the film heap, with Mel Gibson for grinning, winning company.

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WHAT'S INSIDE:
- Be your fave anime character Page 4
- Bug Poetry Page 6
- The Lunch Box Page 11

You KENDO it!

A bunch of friends and anime fans take on a traditional Japanese sport

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

"CAN you really stand to be near us?" Bambi asks.

Uh, why not, we ask back.

"Because," she replies, running a piece of cloth called *tenugui* through her sweat-plastered hair, "we're really stinky!"

Twenty-five-year-old Bambi Eloriaga and the rest of the members of the Yuukan Kendo Club aren't really too stinky, but they definitely perspire buckets under the armor they wear each time they practice a form of Japanese martial arts called *kendo*.

"*Ken* means 'sword' and *do* means 'way,'" explains their Japanese *sensei*, Takako Takimoto, also 25 years old. Simply put, *kendo* is "the way of the sword" and it happens to be the style of fighting that Japan's ancient warriors, called *samurai*, used.

"Kendo? Oh nononononono!"

This club was formed after a bunch of anime fans began working for an anime magazine called Questor. Sensei Takako, whom everyone fondly calls Tak, works as the magazine's Japanese correspondent.

"One time in the office, we forced Tak to bring Japanese cold noodles for *merienda*," recalls Bambi, who happens to be Questor's editor in chief.

"While we were eating, we started talking and we found out that Tak used to do *kendo* when she was in school," she continues.

"BRAVE" BARKADA. Meet the Yuukan gang.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

Now, another Questor editor, 28-year old Igor Cabbab happens to be a big fan of martial arts, while Bambi is a fan of "Rurouni Kenshin," a.k.a. "Samurai X." Between the two of them, they "forced" Tak to teach *kendo*, even if, at the time, it was the last thing she wanted to do.

"Actually, I didn't like *kendo*," sighs Tak, "because when I was in junior high, it was very, very hard to practice." She says she had to be up very early to practice before school. After classes, she had to practice again for another three hours. "Even in winter, when it's very, very cold!" she adds.

So when Bambi and Igor asked her to teach them, Tak remembers shaking her head and saying, "Oh nonono!"

Goin' (coco) nuts with bamboo

Eventually, though, Tak agreed. "This time," she says, "I made a decision not to be strict. (We would learn) just for fun because I want to enjoy also."

Bambi and Igor soon called up other pals and many promised to come, but on the day of the first lesson in August last year, Igor says, "Only the three of us showed up."

They went ahead and practiced anyway. Wielding bamboo swords they bought from the Manila Kendo Club, they first practiced hitting the coconut trees in the Lagoon at the UP Diliman campus.

The bamboo sword, by the way, is called a *shinai*. "It's basically made of four bamboo staves tied together by string and leather," Igor explains, "the leather goes around the handle and the tip. It's designed to cushion the impact so it won't hurt so much if you hit someone, but of course it could still hurt a lot if you hit someone very, very hard."

YAAH! Igor (left) and Patrick duke it out.

Two kids who saw them practicing, 13-year-old Ralph Vincent Pobre and his cousin, 7-year-old Patrick Luis Sanchez, ended up joining them. "Because of anime! Because of arcades! Because of Yoshi!" says Ralph, calling out every reason he has for learning *kendo*. Yoshi, in case ya didn't know, is a character from "Samurai X" (whom we think Ralph really, really resembles).

More than just whakkitty-whakkitty-wak

Soon other people wanted to join their little club, including some Pinoy "cosplayers"—people who dress up as animé characters during anime conventions.

Yuukan, the name they chose for their club, is the Japanese word for "brave." It's also a play on sounds, according to Igor. "Yuukan sounds like 'you can'," he says, "so it's like, 'You can do kendo!'"

"Kendo is not only (about) fighting," says Tak, "but also mental discipline." In this form of martial arts, you're only allowed to hit three parts of the body—*men*, or the head, *kote*. the wrist and *do*, the body itself. You can't just whack and whack away with your sword either. You have to move your feet in a certain way, and you have to think of your moves first. Before hitting your opponent, you have to call out which part of the body you're going to hit using the Japanese words. "The voice is very important," Tak stresses, "it shows your spirit."

All practitioners of *kendo* have to wear protective armor (check out the box on Page 10). Beneath the armor, they wear traditional Japanese garments. "It's what anime characters wear!" Bambi says gleefully.

Fun + Discipline

Now, *kendo* is also about respecting others, even your opponent. "Before we hit each other we always say, *Onegaishimasu*," says Tak, which she

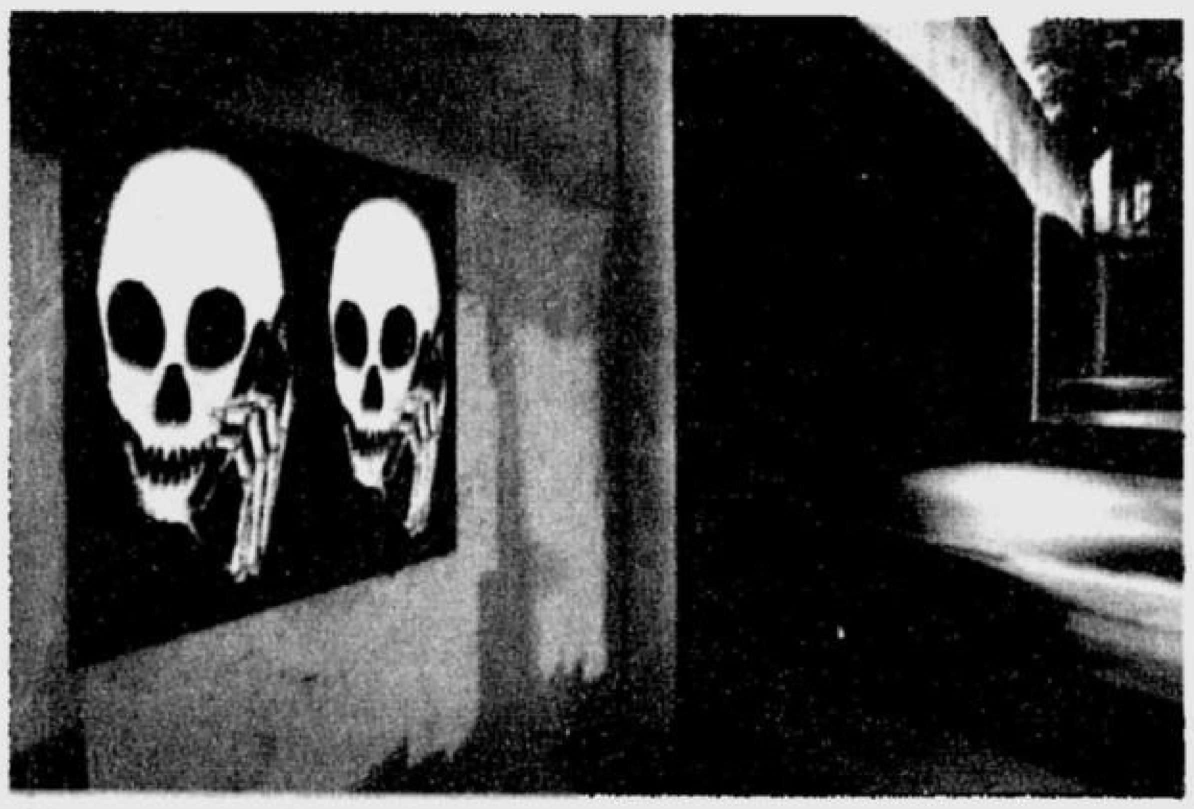
You/p.10

WORLD SCOPE

Celebrating Books

PERUVIAN writer Mario Vargas Llosa (left) is joined by Uruguayan artist Luz Darriba at Madrid's Puerta de Alcala (in background) which was covered with 45,000 books to celebrate the Madrid book fair. Darriba was the inspiration of the idea to cover the Alcala monument with books. *AP*

Cellphone Danger



AN ELABORATELY stenciled image of a skull holding a wireless telephone is seen on an abutment to the Avenue 52 overcrossing of the Pasadena Freeway. From New York to California, state officials seem driven to distraction by motorists with cellular phones. Carrying broad public support, bans on drivers using hand-held cell phones have been proposed in 40 states, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. *AP*

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Chicago, USA

BTW. . .

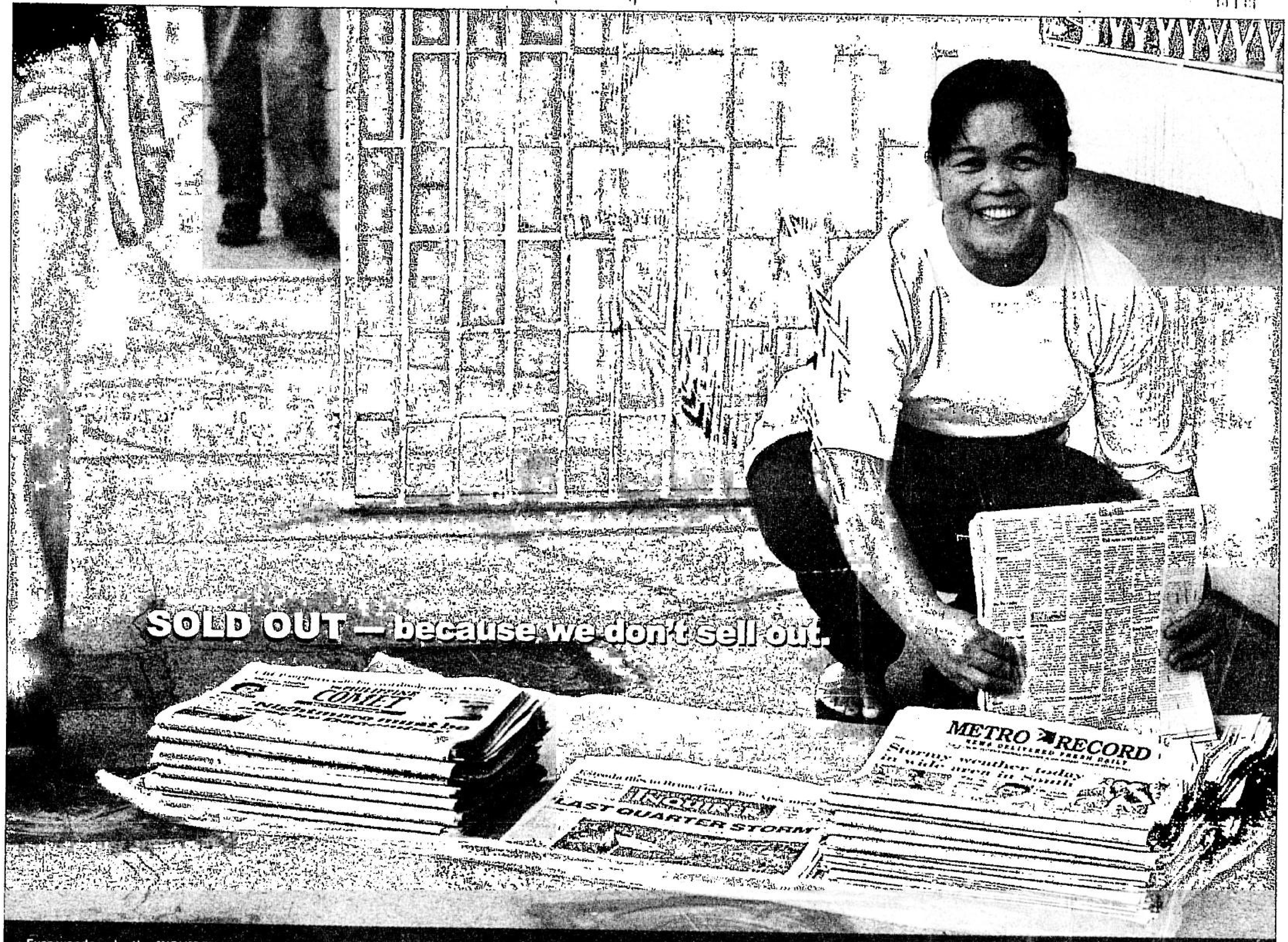
UP-AND-COMING singer Brittney Cleary sits on a swing in a park near her Nashville recording studio. Cleary, 13, is about to release her new song "I.M. Me," about a phenomenon she's sure millions of computer-savvy kids all over the world will relate to: instant messaging. *AP*

She plays Lara

ACTRESS Angelina Jolie, who stars in the new film, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," points to photographers during the world premiere of the film at the Mann Village Theater early this month. "Tomb Raider" is a popular PlayStation game that features an adventurous and very fit female character. *AP*

Bye, Bozo!

BOZO the Clown, played by Joey D'Auria, hugs Adina Kazan, 4, of Deerfield, Illinois following the taping of "Bozo: 40 Years of Fun," the final show in the history of Bozo shows on WGN-TV in Chicago. The show will air on July 14, ending a chapter in television history. *AP*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PEOPLE at WORK
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A publication of
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

BE A STORYTELLER! Join a workshop by the Alitaptap Storytellers Club today and tomorrow, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Museo Pambata. But call Des or Olive at 523-1797 to 98 to let them know you're coming. Museo Pambata is located at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

BALLET. Dreaming of becoming a prima ballerina? Goodwill Bookstore's Children Activity Center offers ballet lessons to kids ages 3-10. Classes starts on July 7 and will be held every Saturday at Basement Level, Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. For more info, call up 813-4956 to 57, 893-9079.

TAEKWONDO. Taekwondo is not just for self-defense, it also teaches discipline, as well as respect for others. Goodwill Bookstore's Children Activity Center offers Taekwondo classes under RP team member and 1999 Sea Games bronze medallist Dindo Simpao. Sessions are held every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the Basement Level, Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. For more info call up 813-4956 to 57, 893-9079.

Promo

RAINY DAY PERKS. Enjoy Enchanted Kingdom's Rainy Days Specials until Aug. 12. Become EK's "Lucky Visitor" of the week and enjoy VIP treatment during your visit—no queuing for rides, get a personal park escort, free lunch or dinner, and other gifts. Plus, all paying guests will automatically get free return tickets of the same kind until Aug. 12. Visitors with ride-all tickets receive an EK Perks Bundle containing discounts from various food and merchandise shops inside the park, freebies from Domino's Pizza, Subway, Dream Day-passes to Robinsons' Dreamscape and Dream Town. EK will only be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Weekend rates are at P400 (ride-all); P250 (Super Saver) and P100 (EK special). Tickets are available at TicketWorld. For shuttle schedules call Philtranco Holidays at 811-6012 to 37. For further inquiries call 830-2111 to 16 (Makati) or 843-6073 to 78 (Laguna).

Museum Moments

TGIS AT AYALA MUSEUM. Come home looking like a *pintado*, sporting jewelry you yourself designed. Learn the art of body painting and jewelry making with Jean Pierre Laò today at 12 nn at the Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Ayala Museum's museum shop, exhibition galleries and Escuela sa Museo are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For inquiries call up Christy Monastrial or Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 128 or 130.

Cable Picks

KTV ON MTV. Study history in a more fun and hip way. "Kasaysayan TV" or "KTV" teaches Social Studies in music television video format. Watch "KTV" on the Knowledge Channel (SkyCable channel 16).

PROBLEM ANIMALS. Tonight at 6 watch how animals get really bad in Animal Planet's series "Animal Intelligence—The Mischievous." Elephant adolescents who grew up without a father figure might mean big trouble. While squirrels will do anything just to steal some snack. Don't miss it.

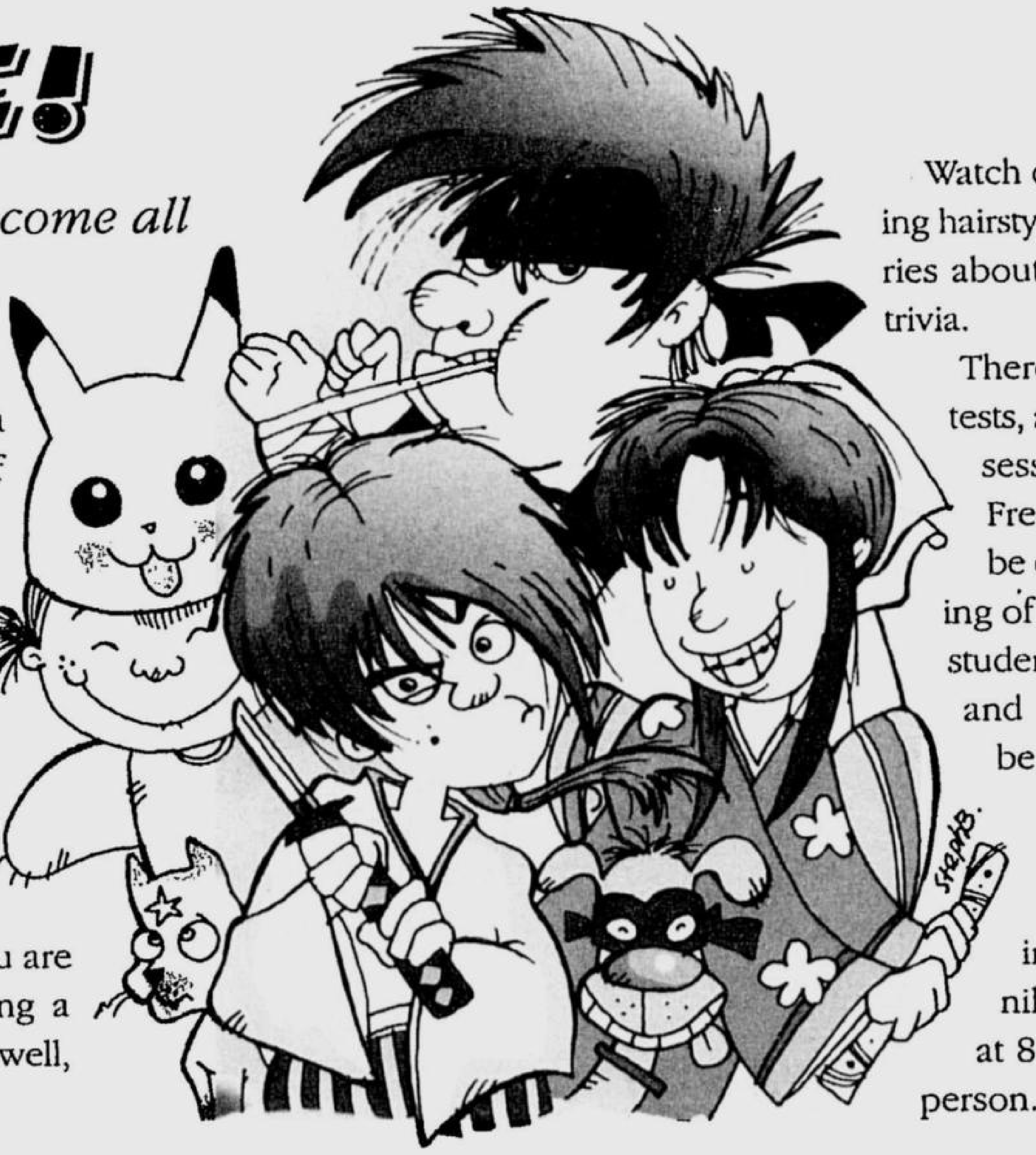
BE YOUR FAVORITE ANIME!

Anime fans, come one, come all

IF YOU'RE A REAL anime fan, you'll want to attend this event. Check out Anime CosPlay Manila today at the Mega Trade Hall 2 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Costume Play or CosPlay has participants playing their favorite anime character. It's a popular event attended by animé fans throughout the world and is now gaining popularity among anime fans in Metro Manila.

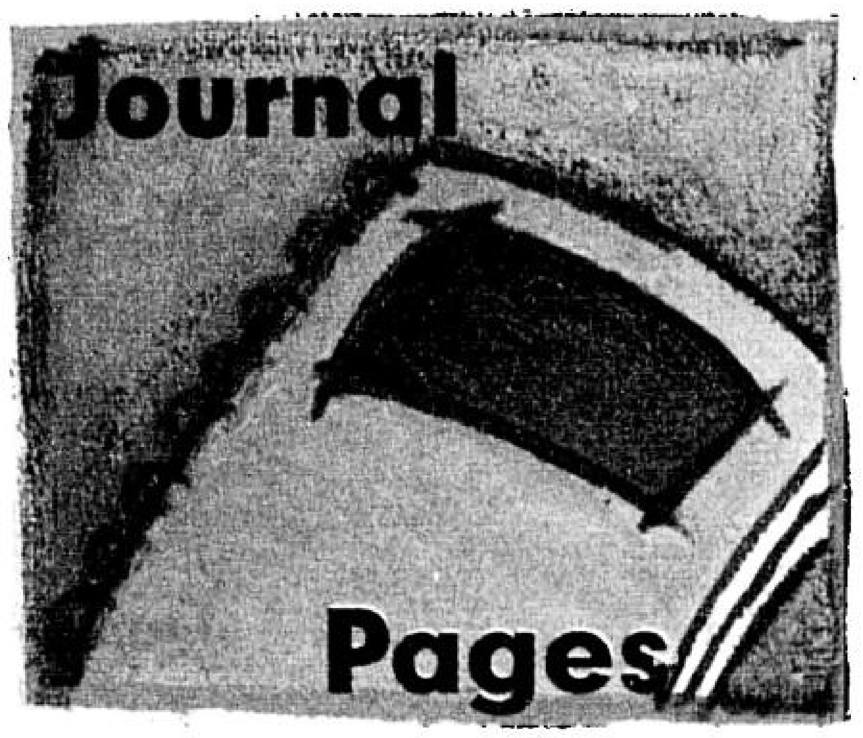
Of course you can come as you are and just be a spectator but being a cosplayer separates the fans from, well, the real fans.



Watch other kids with their gravity-defying hairstyles. Compare costumes. Trade stories about favorite episodes and character trivia.

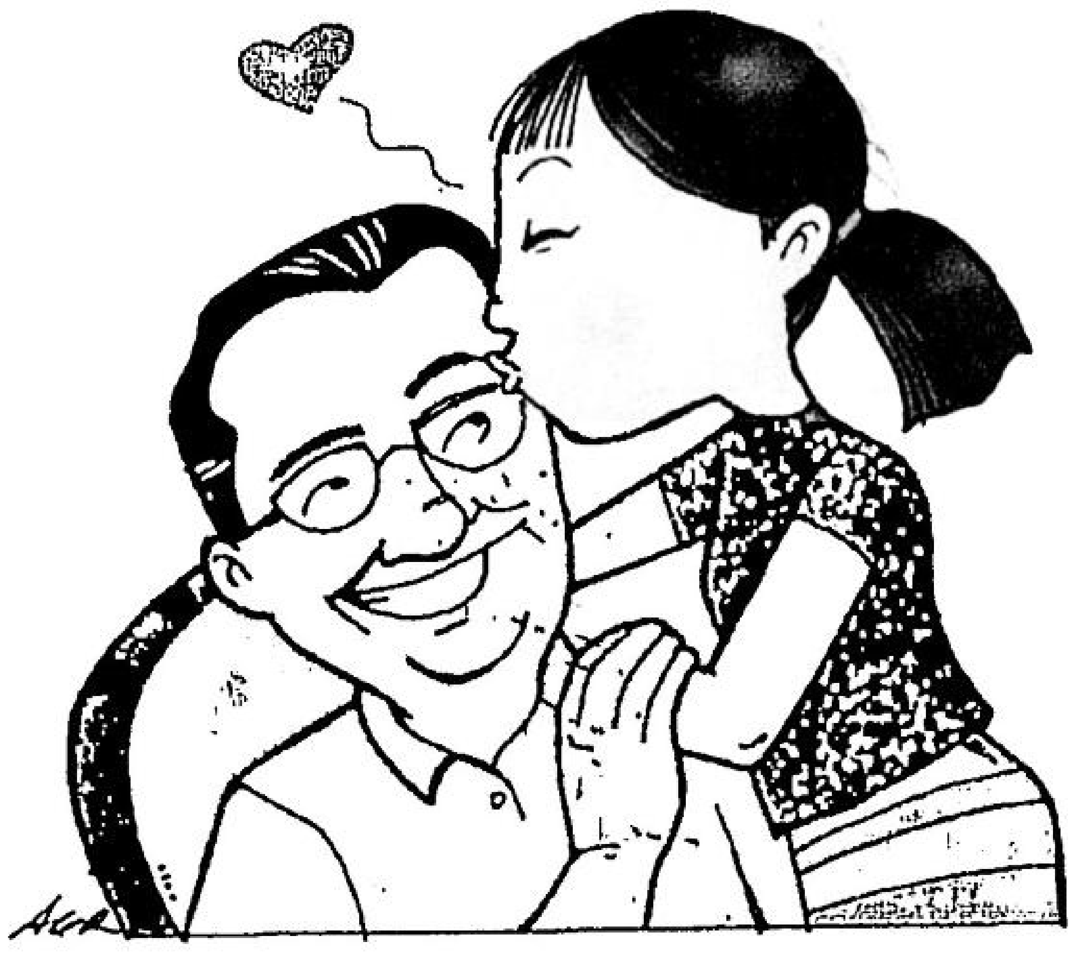
There will be fan art and trivia contests, animé sing-along and dance-along sessions with a Japanese live band. Free anime art drawing lessons will be offered. There will also be a showing of original animated works done by students from ArtFarm, fan-initiated skits and of course the main event would be the Catwalk Presentation featuring CosPlayers in costumes.

ArtFarm Asia, the Philippines' first-of-its-kind animation learning institute, is the host of CosPlay Manila. Event starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m. Registration fee is P100 per person. See you there!



My Dad- The Golden Man

By Niña C. Alipio
UP Diliman



BIRTHDAYS in our family have always been happy but had never seen my father happier than on his 50th birthday. A wide smile was plastered all over his face and he had a radiant energy around him. I thought maybe I don't have to wish him a "Happy Birthday" because he was already having one.

A few nights before his birthday, we sat down together for one of those "is-everything-okay-with-you" chats we have once in a while.

"A! Fifty years," dad said. "My back still feels okay. Now, that's a reason to be happy." "Dad, what are you happy about?" I asked, looking interested.

"You see, I was able to reach this golden age without arthritis or any serious illness," he replied.

"I see," I said. "Is that the only reason?"

"If I begin to count my blessings, it will take us forever to finish."

"What are you thinking of at this very moment? Don't tell a lie!" I said.

"I am thinking about a very special day. I want to have a Mass here at home and invite some of my friends over for some cocktails," he said wistfully.

"The cocktails sound like a good idea. But a Mass? Dad, I don't think so. It's not that I have anything against it. It's just that we can always sponsor a Mass if we want to," I laughed.

"You don't understand, little girl. There are a lot of things we should be thankful for every day of our lives. This Mass we are going to have here will serve as a thanksgiving not only because I have already reached 50 but also for the goodness the Lord has shown toward me for the 50 fruitful years now."

"Is that so, Dad?" I asked as I looked at him curiously.

"Yes, my child. And you are one sweet fruit the Lord granted your mom and me 16 years ago. You alone are enough reason to have this Mass," he said.

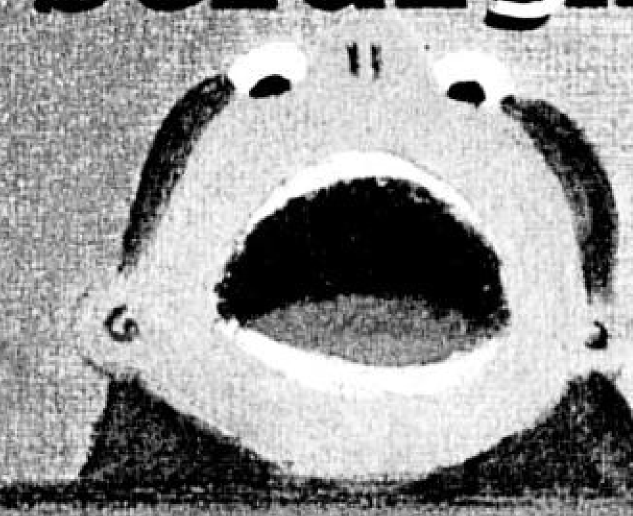
"Aww. . .that was sweet Dad," I told him.

"Besides, your three brothers have all grown into young men, two of them now have good jobs. What more can a simple man like me ask for? Each of you is a blessing to me."

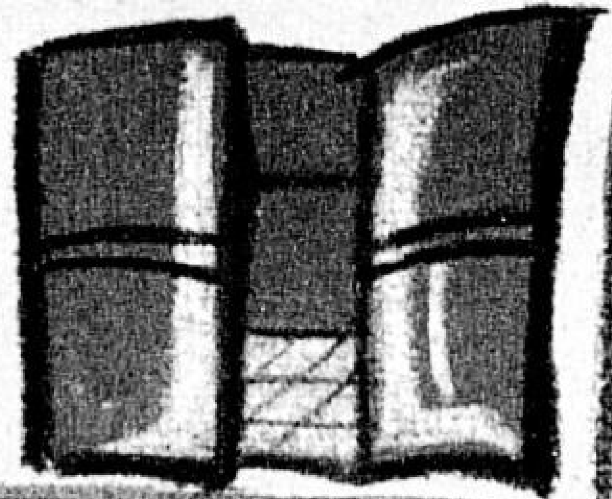
My Dad/p.10

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



A Special Request

DEAR Editor,

My name is Doulat P. Jiandani and I am a naturalized Filipino. I turned 75 on April 27. I am presently very sickly because of the two strokes I've suffered. I now walk with the aid of a walking cane. If ever I suffer a third stroke, it could be my last. How I wish to see my grand daughter's graduation photo published in your paper. I'm sure you might not have space for such a request but miracles happen and I'd now like to thank you in advance.—**DOULAT P. RAM JIANDANI**, Manila

HERE'S Shereen Romina Jiandani, 7, granddaughter of Veena-Duru and Doulat P. Ram Jiandani. She graduated March this year from Lapaz Elementary School, Makati. Congratulations!

JUNIOR INQUIRER

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Philippines

Mga Tula ni Genaro
Guhit ni Maria

Sa Kaharian ng mga Anay

Minsan, may lalaking anay
Nag-iisa, malungkot ang buhay
Nag-asawa nang may kasama sa bahay.

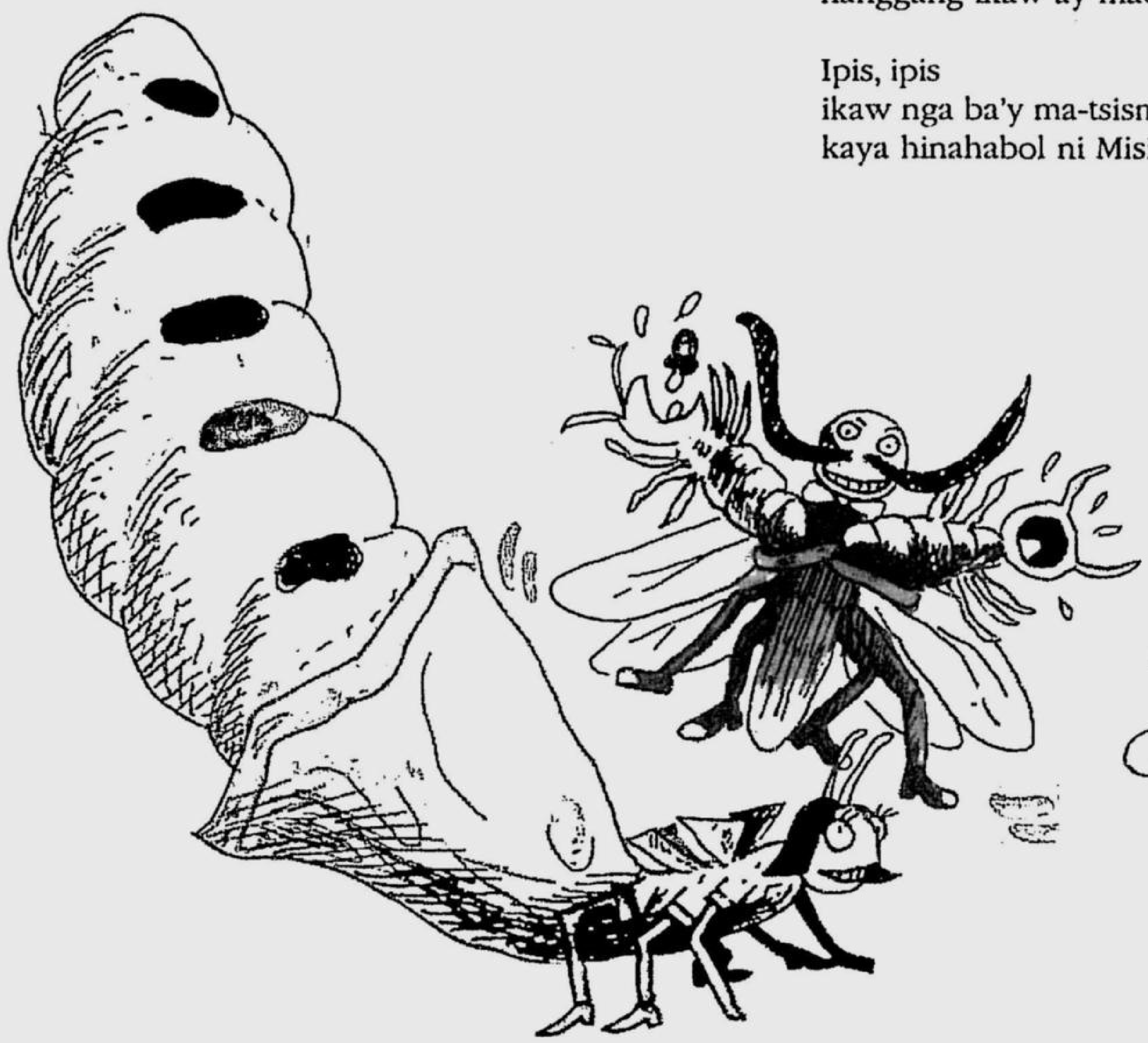
Magkatuwang silang nagmay-ari
Ng kaharian kung saan siya'y Hari
At ang kabiyak ang Reynang tinaguri.

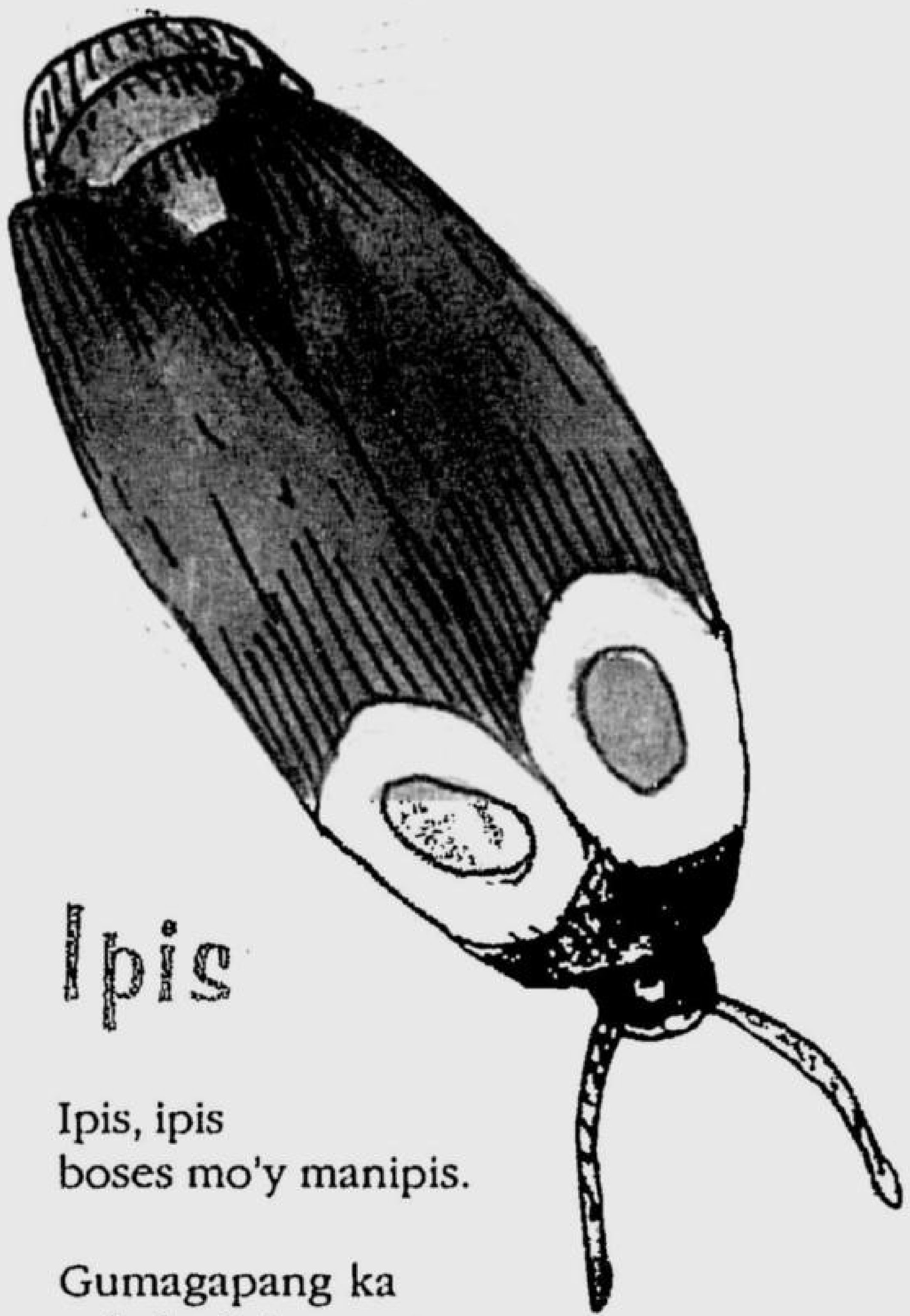
Ang Hari ay mason ng bahay-anay
Ang Reyna ay siyang naging Nanay
Ang mga anak—hanay-hanay.

Sila bilang isang grupo,
Ay masipag, malakas, di-bobo,
Isang angkang progresibo.

Sa isang masakit na biro ng tadhana
Ang mga anay, bahay nila'y ginagawa,
Habang gusaling tabla ng tao ay ginigiba.

Tulad ng anay, may mga lider ng bayang sawi
Na animo'y matatag na gusali,
Ngunit gusali ay giniba dahil sa buwayang ugali.





Ipis

Ipis, ipis
boses mo'y manipis.

Gumagapang ka
nakakadiri sa mata.

Matambok ang 'yong likod
patakbo kang uugud-ugod.

Hinahabol ka ng tsinelas
hanggang ikaw ay madulas.

Ipis, ipis
ikaw nga ba'y ma-tsismis
kaya hinahabol ni Misis?

Langaw

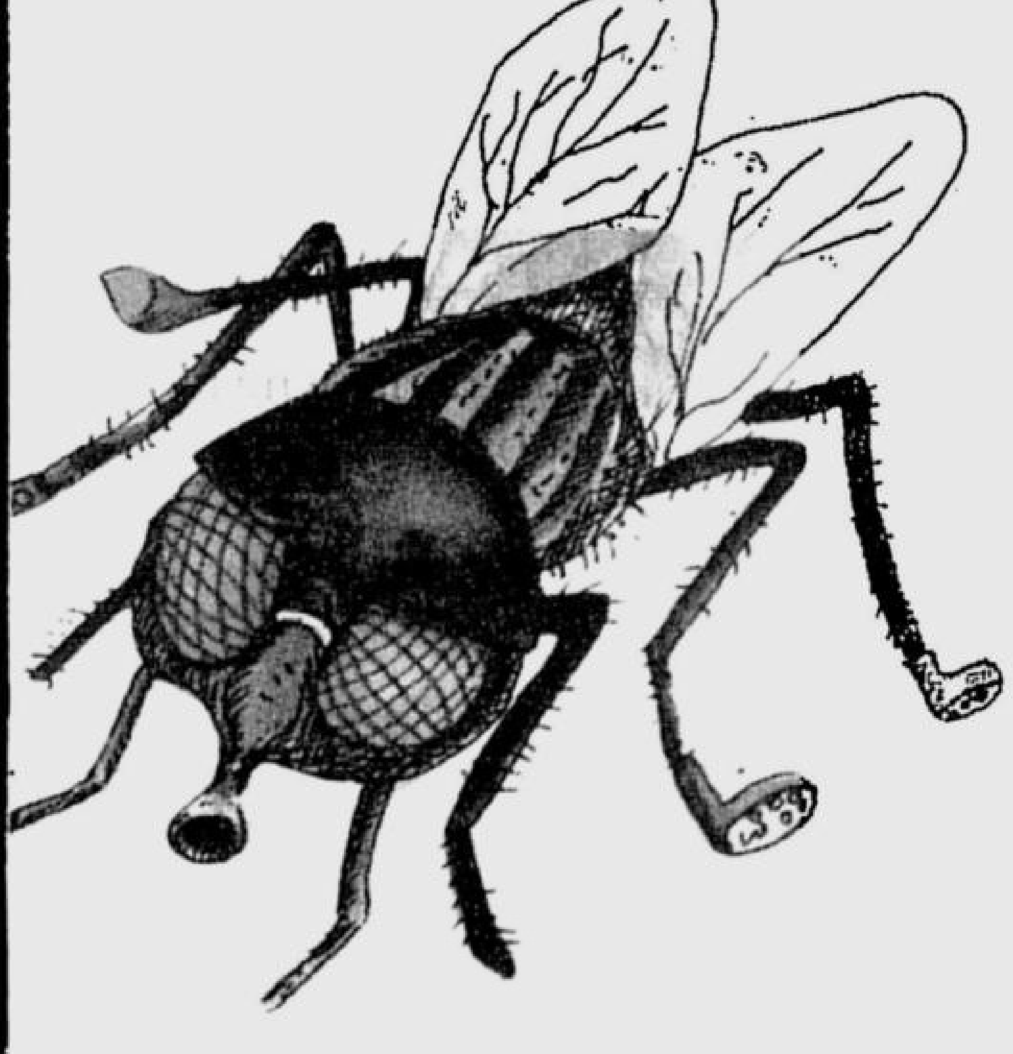
Langaw, langaw
uma-alingawngaw
sa basurahan
uma-alingasaw.

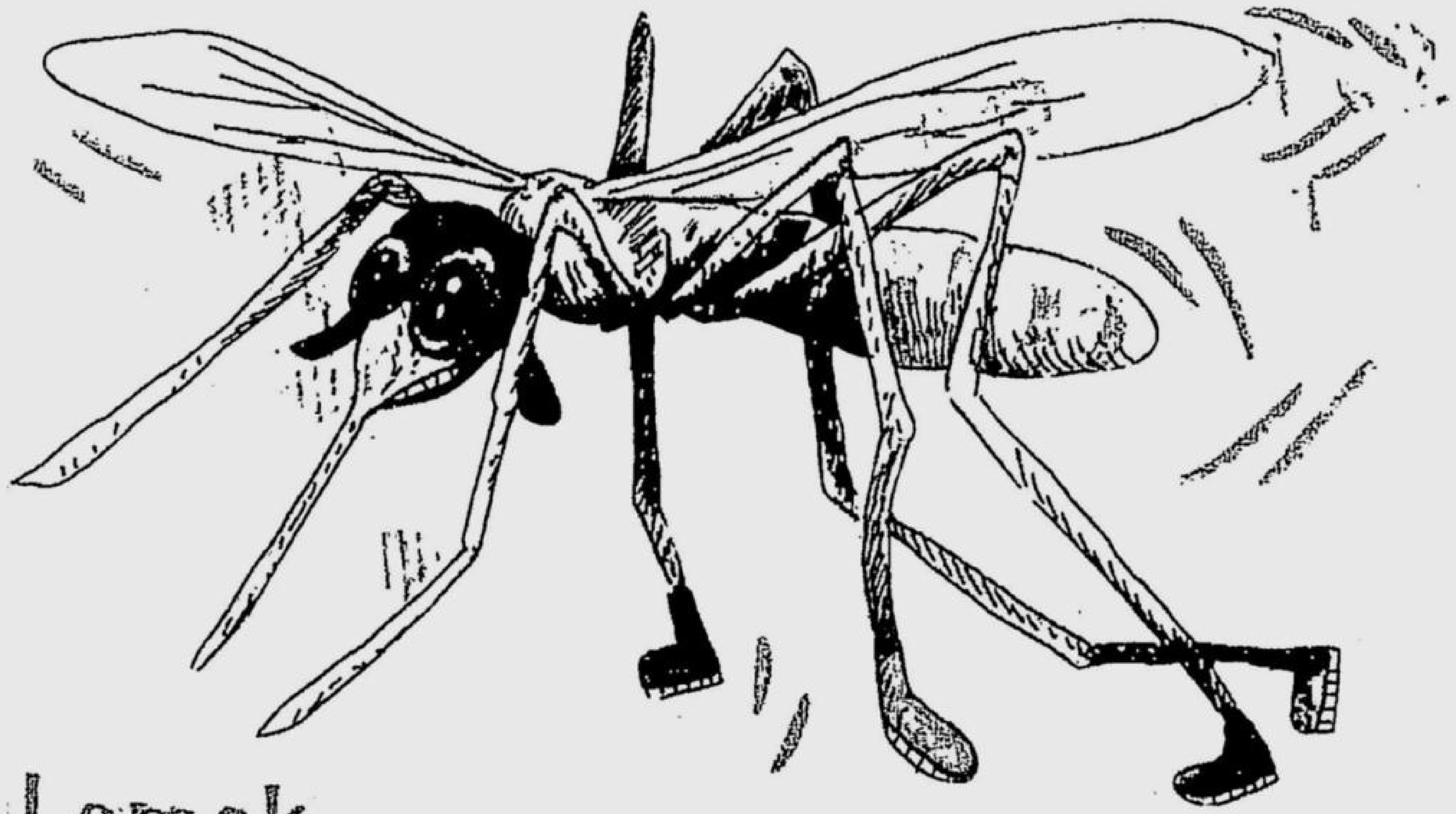
Langaw, langaw
nagdadala ng mikrobiyo
at ng sakit na dumadayo

Langaw, langaw
na nagiging bangaw,
sila'y bugaw
ng dumi araw-araw.

Kaya, bahay ay linisin
bakuran ay walisin
upang langaw ay di
bisitahin
at tuluyang paalisin.

R. Gojo Cruz
no Ching





Lamok

Lamok, lamok
biktima'y inaantok.

Kay liit-liit
kagat ay kay-sakit.

Lason ay iniiniksyon
ng ngusong may lason.

Salot ng mga tao
ano kaya ang silbi nito?

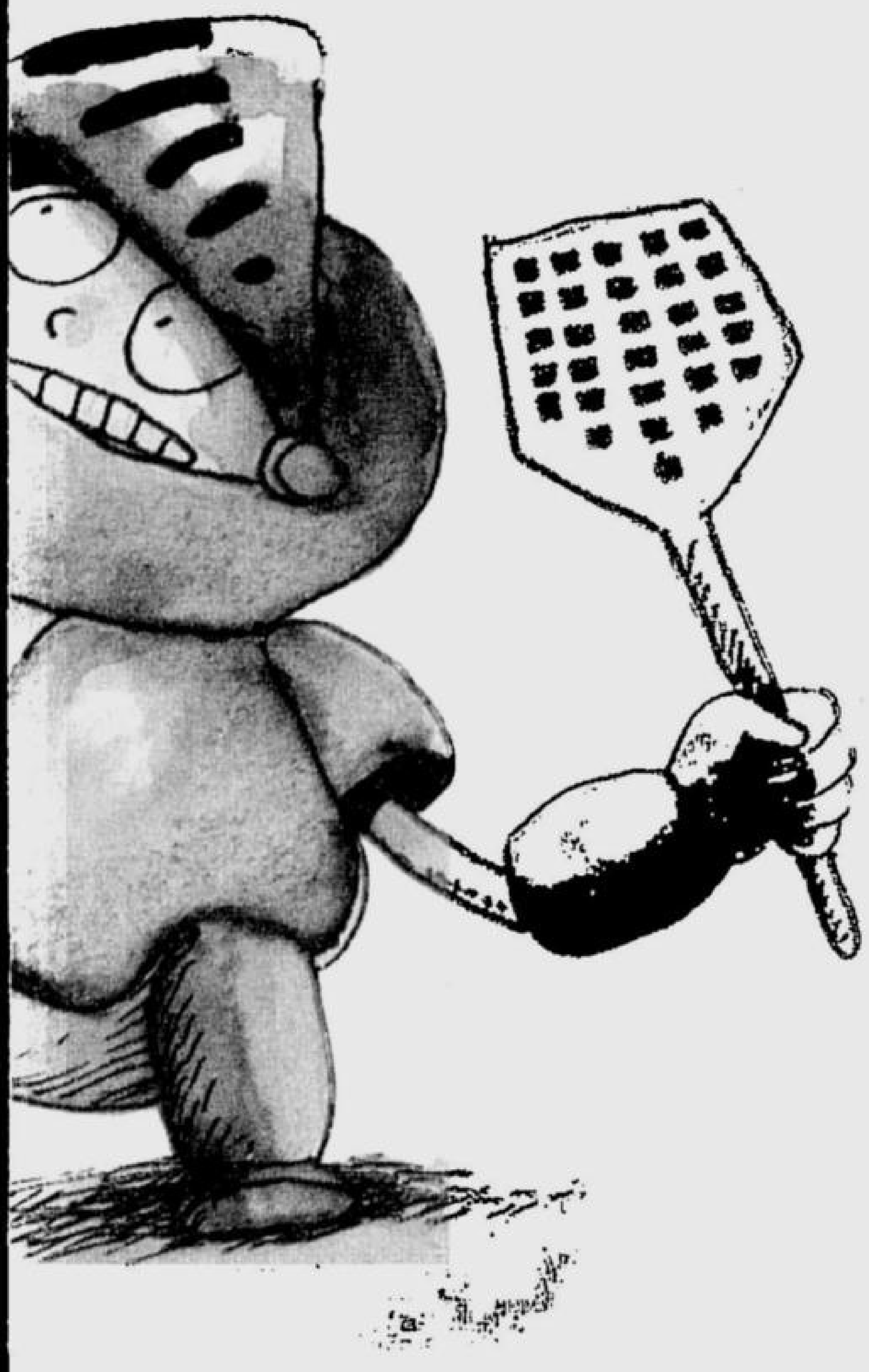
Linisin ang bakuran
upang lamok, walang matirhan.

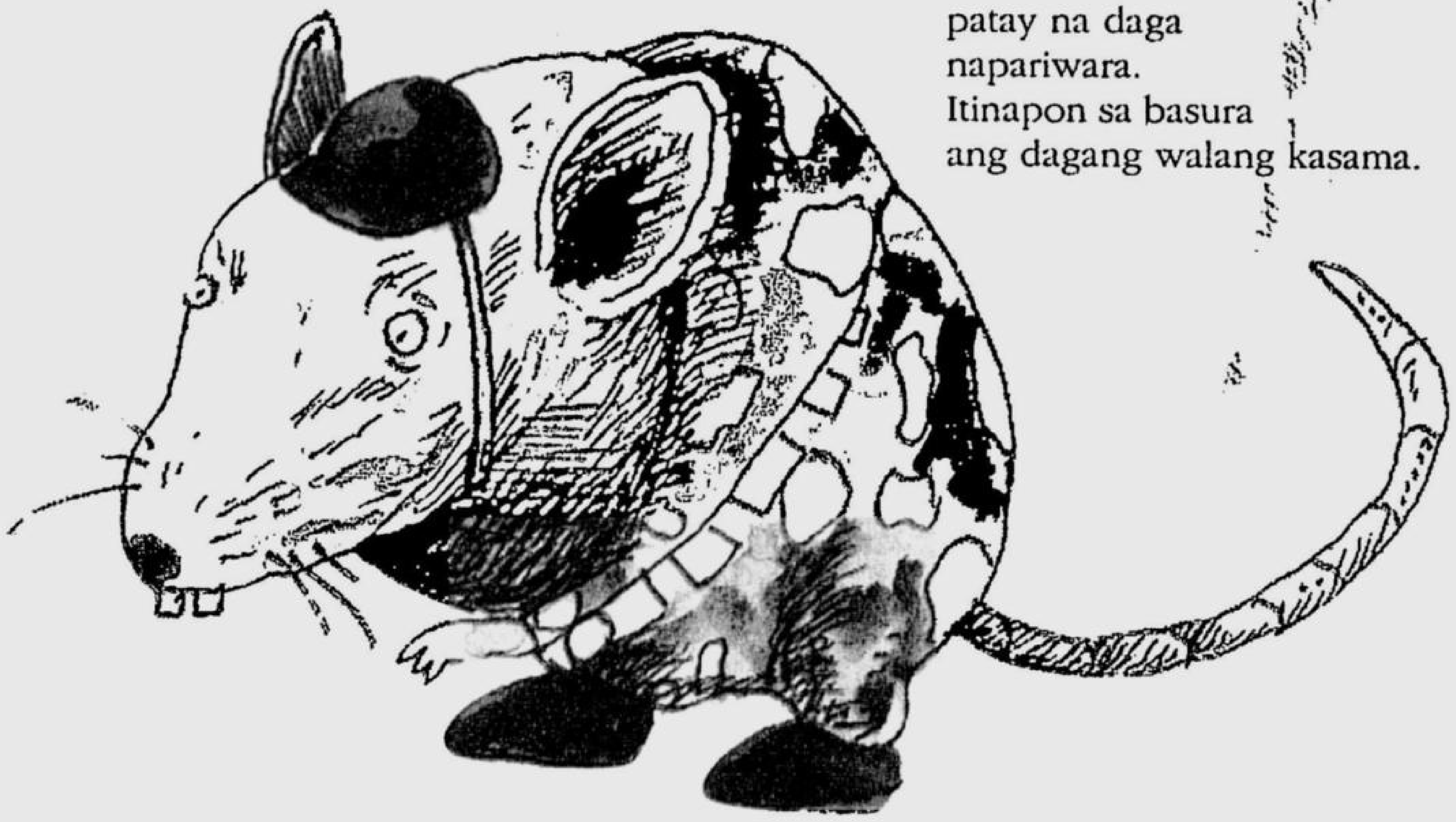
Daga

May isang daga
hinabol ng taga
nagsuot sa lungga
naging kawawa.

Nagutom ang daga
lumabas sa lungga;
sinubo ang kanin
'yon pala'y lason na pagkain.

patay na daga
napariwara.
Itinapon sa basura
ang dagang walang kasama.





KID Confidence

Julian Cañita shows that believing in yourself doesn't mean being super-yabang

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

PRETEND you're looking at a Kids r 'Rrific nomination form.

I nominate: Julian Genesis Cañita.

Age: 13

I think he's 'Rific because: "He's so cute and talented..."

Sender's Name: Julian Genesis Cañita

Kids 'r' rrific

Notice anything?

Whoa, you must be thinking, what a conceited kid. Julian, though, is really anything but vain or boastful. In fact when we asked him if he wrote that just to grab our attention, he sheepishly answered, "Yeah, sort of..."

Mostly Julian, who is in Grade 7 at the Ateneo de Manila, feels he's just a normal kid. "I like going out with my friends. I like talking on the phone," he describes himself and adds, "I like singing and acting."

Aha! Now that's probably where all the confidence comes from.

"I joined our school play when I was in Grade 3. It inspired me," says Julian. Since then he's been a member of the Ateneo Children's Theater. He's also joined the Trumpets Playshop for two summers now. According to Julian, the stage "has something that I wanted."

He says, "It's just like when I'm there, I feel like I'm so energetic. I feel comfortable there."

It's when he's performing that Julian says he feels there might be something special about himself. "Some of our plays have a lesson behind them," he explains, "I feel special because I'm able to help other people learn that lesson."

Well-behaved clown

You'd think, though, that because he likes the stage so much, he'd want to be an actor.

Wrong.

"Now I'm thinking that I want to be a successful lawyer," says Julian, "before, I already felt the urge to learn about law. It increased after the impeachment trial."

Growing up, though, Julian has wanted to be all sorts of things, including a circus performer.

"That was when I was three!" Julian admits, laughing. He may no longer want to be in the circus, but people close to Julian know he can be quite a clown when he wants to be.

At the same time, Julian can also be pretty serious about his studies. On school days, he goes to bed at exactly 8 p.m. "If you stay up late watching TV," says Julian, "you lose your concentration for your studies, but if you sleep early, your mind can relax and remember all the things you've studied."

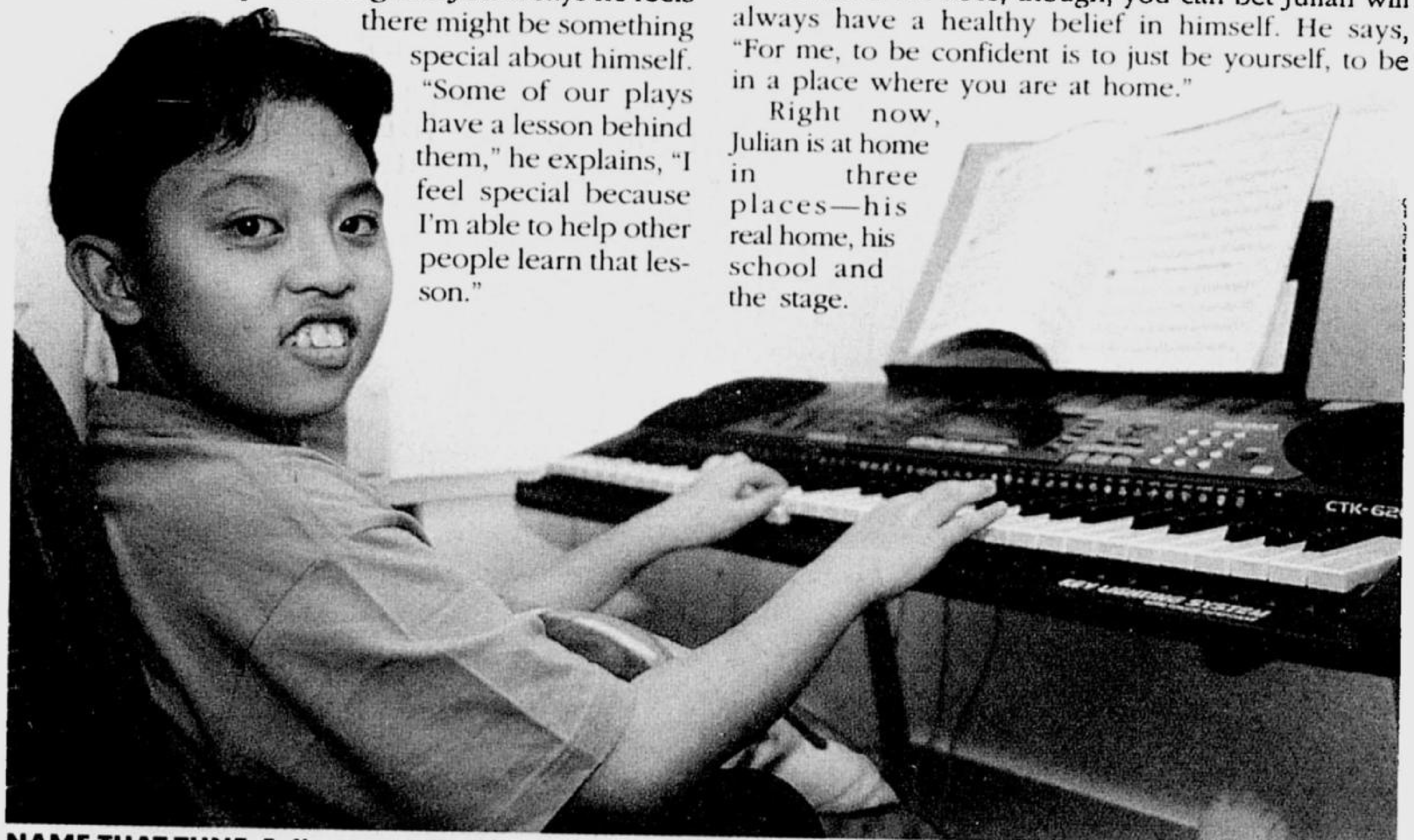
Feels like home

Although he has never taken any formal piano lessons, if Julian hears a tune often enough, he'll be able to figure out the notes on his electronic keyboard. This ear for music helps him a lot when he performs.

He's also started writing scripts. "One time I was bored and I was listening to my music," Julian relates, "then it all came to my mind. I mixed (the songs) all up and made up a story." Putting together the lyrics of different songs, he was able to come up with a 60-page play called "The Young Prince."

Whatever he does, though, you can bet Julian will always have a healthy belief in himself. He says, "For me, to be confident is to just be yourself, to be in a place where you are at home."

Right now, Julian is at home in three places—his real home, his school and the stage.



NAME THAT TUNE. Julian can play any tune on his keyboard if he hears it often enough.

ROMY HOMILLADA

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______

Age: ______

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

______

She/he lives at

______

and studies at

______

Her/his contact number is:

______

Sender's Name:

______

Sender's Age & School:

______, ______

Sender's Address:

______

Sender's Contact No.

TAHOMI
TAHOMI
TAHOMI

SWEET THINGS. Julia (left) and Alex (right) join Tita Sequi for a healthy snack.

ROGER MARGALLO

Taho Bonding

A familiar snack—made not so familiar—is good in more ways than one

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

VANILLARAMA, Buko Pandalicious, mmm-Melon Mania and ooohhh! Belgian chocolate with toppings and whipped cream! Can you guess what we're having? Ice cream? Nope, that was last week. This time its. . .ta-dah. . .taho!

The taho is from Tahomi—a small food cart business *Tita* Sequi started with her two sisters.

"Growing up, I wasn't really a taho person. My sisters liked it more," says *Tita* Sequi whose real name is Ma. Cecilia de Sequera Cu Unjieng. "But now I like it *na*, especially the chilled flavors like hazelnut and Belgian chocolate," she adds with a smile that lights up her face.

Because she once worked as an interior designer, *Tita* Sequi was in charge of designing the logos, the carts and the paper cups. She even created a soybean mascot whom her 10-year-old daughter Alex called "J. Beany" The name stuck.

Her other kids also helped give suggestions on how J. Beany should look ("No glasses, Mom," she recalls hearing one of them say) or what funky names to give the flavored taho. Strawberry Supreme, for instance, almost became "Strawberry Supreme Fantasy Dream."

Uptown Mom

As a mom of two boys and two girls, *Tita* Sequi says she's "not very strict."

"I want (my children) to always feel they can come to me," she says. That's one of the reasons why, she adds, she listens to...Westlife.

"Don't ask me their names! I just know the songs," *Tita* Sequi says, laughing. Her 4-year-old daughter Julia, she points out, is a big Westlife fan.

Tahomi started scooping to customers only last December and *Tita* Sequi says it has made her and her sisters closer. "We've never bonded so much before!" she beams.

She'd like to think it's helping other families bond too. Most of the members of the Tahomi crew are relatives of scholars sent to school through a foundation *Tita* Sequi, her husband and some friends set up for street kids. "We want this business to be about growing together as a family," she says, again smiling.

On the menu, Tahomi is described as "Taho with an Attitude."

"Taho with a Heart" sounds just about right too.

Check out the Tahomi carts at the Upper Ground Floor of SM Southmall and the 3rd Floor Bridgeway of Festival Supermall.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________
He/She is ____ years old and is my ______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) ______________;
2) ______________;
3) ______________;
4) ______________;
and
5) ______________.
My nominee lives at ______________
______________.
Give him/her a call at ______________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail
at ______________.
By the way, I'm ______________
______________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
______________.
You may call me at
______________.

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Real Names—Hollywood Stars

DO you know the true names of some of your favorite Hollywood babes and hunks? Not an easy multiple-choice chore but whatever your score, it should be fun deciding whether their screen names are truly more "Hollywoody" than those they were born with. So in each number, start dropping names and leave behind the one you think (or feel) is the real thing.

1. **Julia Roberts**
   A. Juliana Roberts
   B. Julie Amelia Robertson
   C. Julie Fiona Roberts

2. **Brad Pitt**
   X. William Bradley Pitt
   Y. Brod Pete
   Z. Braddock Pitt

3. **Marilyn Monroe**
   A. Marie Lynne Monroe
   B. Marilyn Sue Baker
   C. Norma Jean Mortenson

4. **Nicolas Cage**
   X. Nicholas Coppola
   Y. Nicholas Cagenoti
   Z. Nichols Trap

5. **Demi Moore**
   A. Denise Micha Moore
   B. Demitasse Willis
   C. Demetria Gene Guynes

6. **Tom Cruise**
   X. Timothy Cruz III
   Y. Thomas Cruise Mapother IV
   Z. Tommy John Michaels II

7. **Winona Ryder**
   A. Winona Laura Horowitz
   B. Wilma Anna Smith
   C. Weena Pamela Ryder

8. **Bruce Willis**
   X. Bruce Williamson
   Y. Brutus Caesar Wilson
   Z. Walter Bruce Willis

9. **Meg Ryan**
   A. Megaera Gina Ryan
   B. Margaret Mary Emily Anne Hyra
   C. Megan Ryan Mitchell

10. **Sean Connery**
   X. Thomas Sean Connery
   Y. Simon Peter Conner
   Z. Sean Cannery

11. **Jodie Foster**
   A. Jodie Forrester
   B. Jocelyn Diana Foster
   C. Alicia Christian Foster

12. **Jackie Chan**
   X. Chan Kwong Sang
   Y. Chan Bruce Lee
   Z. Chan Jae Kowloon

Answers:

1. C
2. X
3. C
4. X
5. C
6. Y
7. A
8. Z
9. B
10. X
11. C
12. X

Ratings

superbrain!
11 - 12

excellent!
9 - 10

good!
5 - 8

You KENDO it (from page 1)

explains is like asking the other person for permission to practice with him. "After that, we say, *Arigatou gozaimashita.*" That's Japanese for "thank you very much."

Tak allows her students to laugh during their sessions and even lets the younger ones goof around every now and then.

"I think it has something to do with the fact that we're all friends," Bambi observes, "we all know each other and we're just doing this to have fun."

The Yuukan gang are so buddy-buddy they usually eat lunch together after practice. When we went to see them, we heard Tak invite everyone to a party at her house. "Woohoo!" went the cheers, the loudest coming from Ralph and Patrick.

ROGER CARPIO

WHEW! Bambi (left) and Yoshi, er, Ralph take a break.

"I'm very, very happy," says Tak, "my students are getting better and better, even having fun!" She's definitely glad she agreed to teach *kendo*, even if, she points out, grinning, "I think some of my students are much better than me already."

Kendo Kids Said

We asked the young Yuukan members why they were up on a Sunday morning, learning *kendo* instead of staying curled up in bed, and this is what they said.

"Kendo helps in developing agility. It's good exercise."
—*Larson Chan, 13, Xavier School*

"You learn how to be patient...You're not supposed to use *kendo* to pick fights with somebody. It's a sport."
—*Ralph Vincent Pobre, 13, Lourdes School of Quezon City*

"I also like to speak in Japanese."
—*Patrick Luis Sanchez, 7, Montessori Child Learning Center, Quezon City*

The Kendo Get-Up

gi – a traditional Japanese upper garment
hakama – traditional Japanese pants that look sort of wide, like a skirt
tenugui – cloth wrapped around the head
men – the masked helmet
kote – gloves
do – body armor which covers the chest and tummy
tare – protection around the waist

My Dad-The Golden Man

(from page 5)

"How about mom?" I asked.

"I spent half of my life looking for her and the other half living with her. She is undoubtedly my better half. It's kind of hard to imagine that a few days from now, the kindest, most beautiful woman to me is married to me for 24 years. There really are a gazillion reasons to be happy on my golden birthday," he said.

I was then convinced that the Mass would be a highlight of the occasion. I thought it was just another of my dad's unrealistic plans. Truly, he is a man of gold—not the kind of gold that come in bars but the kind that come in hearts. He has a big heart enough for his family to fit in.

My dad taught my three brothers and I more than living life but learning life. Life, according to my dad is like one subject in school. All of its aspects have to be learned. It has to be steered properly so you will be led to the right path.

My dad is our greatest life teacher, and our mom, of course is his co-teacher. I cannot thank him enough for every single thing he has done, is doing and will be doing for me.

"Happy Birthday, Dad! Thank you so much. You're the best dad anyone could ever wish for," I told him as he gave me a goodnight kiss on the forehead.

He may not be the Big Man in the Senate, nor the *Kabayan* of each Filipino, nor the CEO of a multinational company. But he is one person I will always love to tell all the people I know about. He is a simple yet extraordinary man, who puts his family on top of his to-do list and, of course, I am proud to say that he is my dad—the Golden Man.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

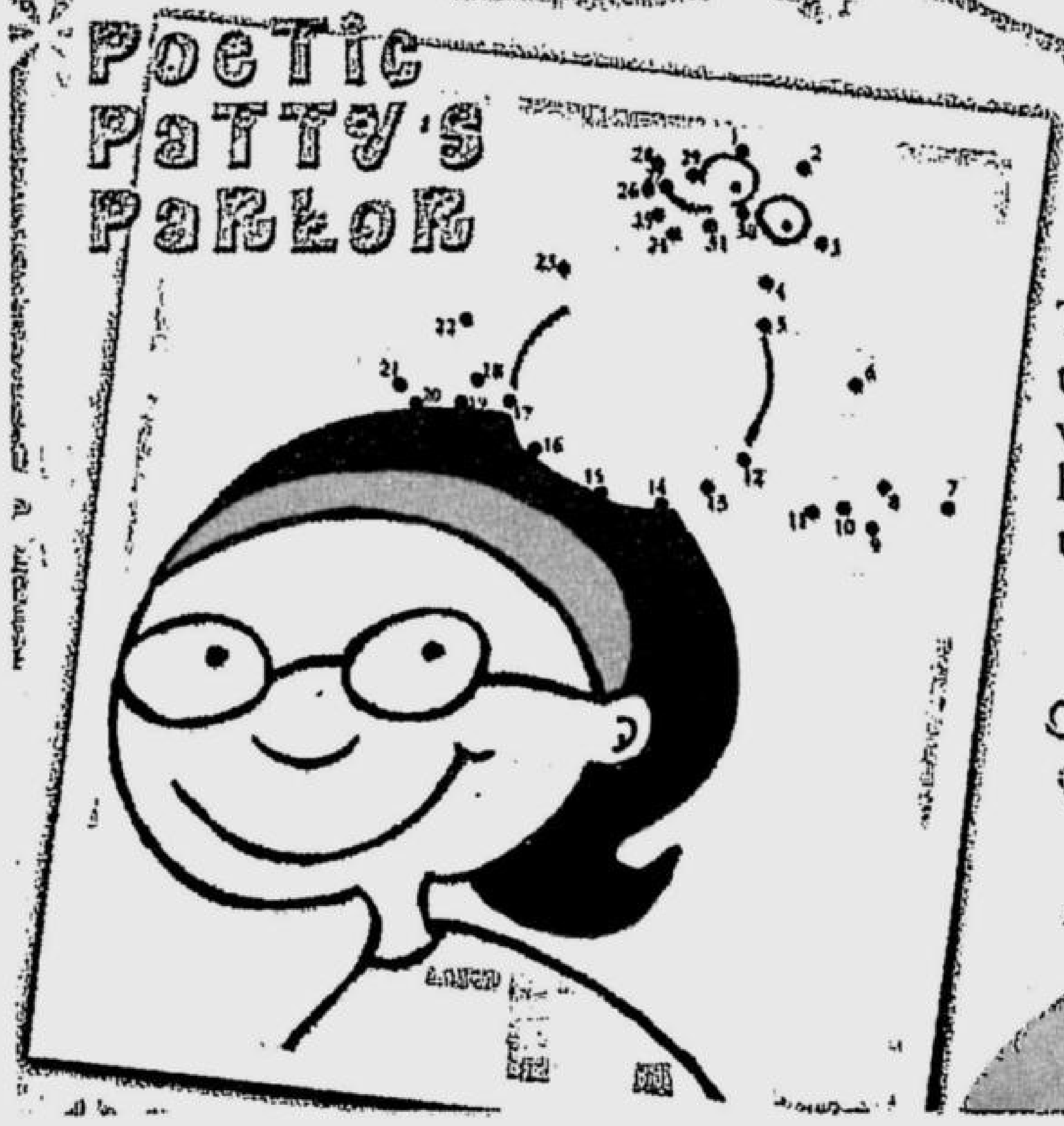
GROSS OUT FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH THIS SIMPLE RECIPE!

IT'S TIME TO MAKE SOME SLIME!

Bring a cup of water to boil. Stir in 2 tablespoons of starch dissolved in a small amount of water. Keep stirring until starch is evenly mixed in with the water. If desired, add a few drops of food coloring (we like green for that alien-goo effect). Remove from heat, and allow your slime to cool before handling.

THANKS TO OUR KITCHEN EXPERTS VIOLY JIMENEZ & CLAIRE AZARCON!

Poetic Patty's Parlor



Truly lucky I must be
to have a friend as this
who'll gladly leave
his favorite tree
to be my company!

Connect the dots!

WORDMATH

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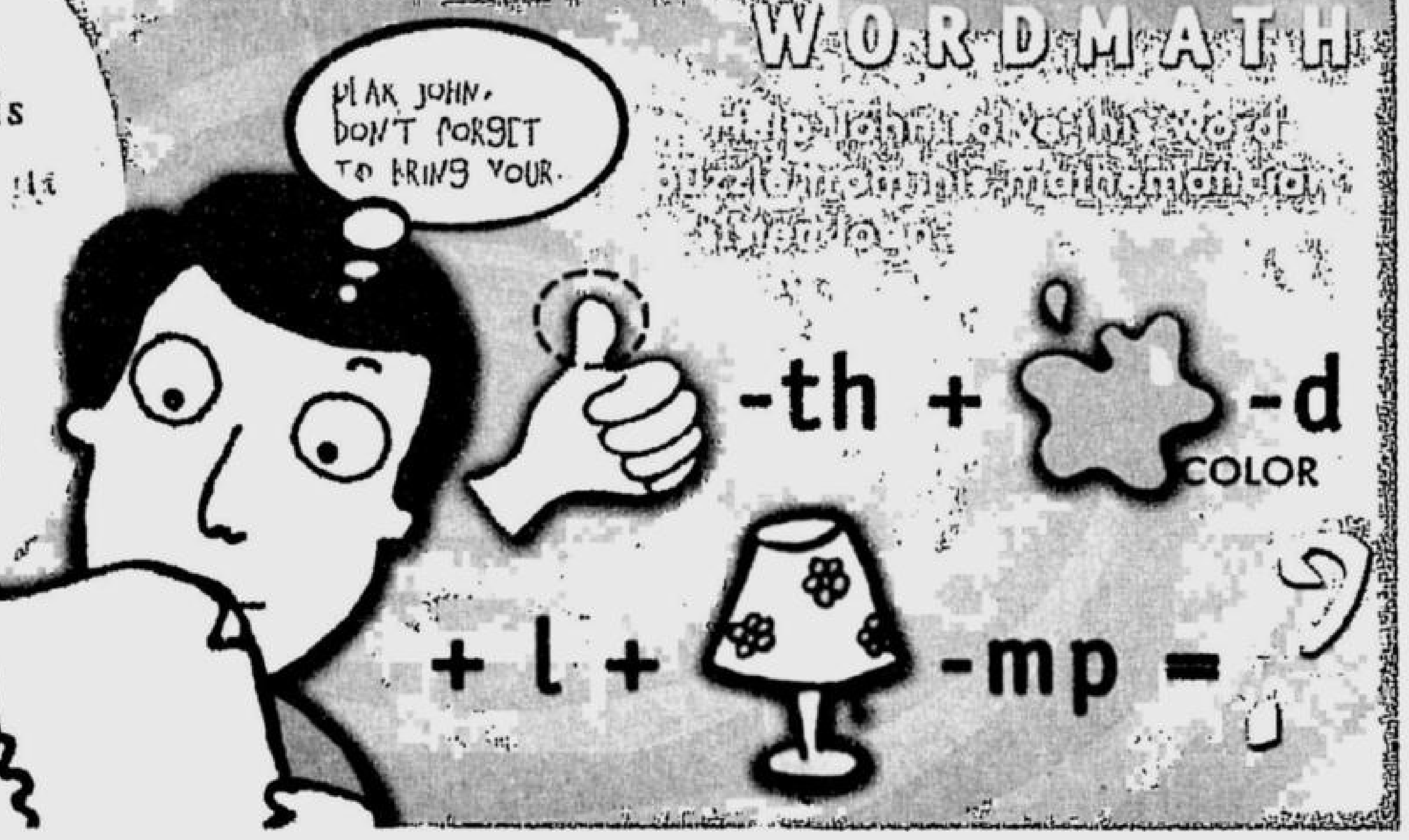
DEAR JOHN,
DON'T FORGET
TO BRING YOUR.
-th +
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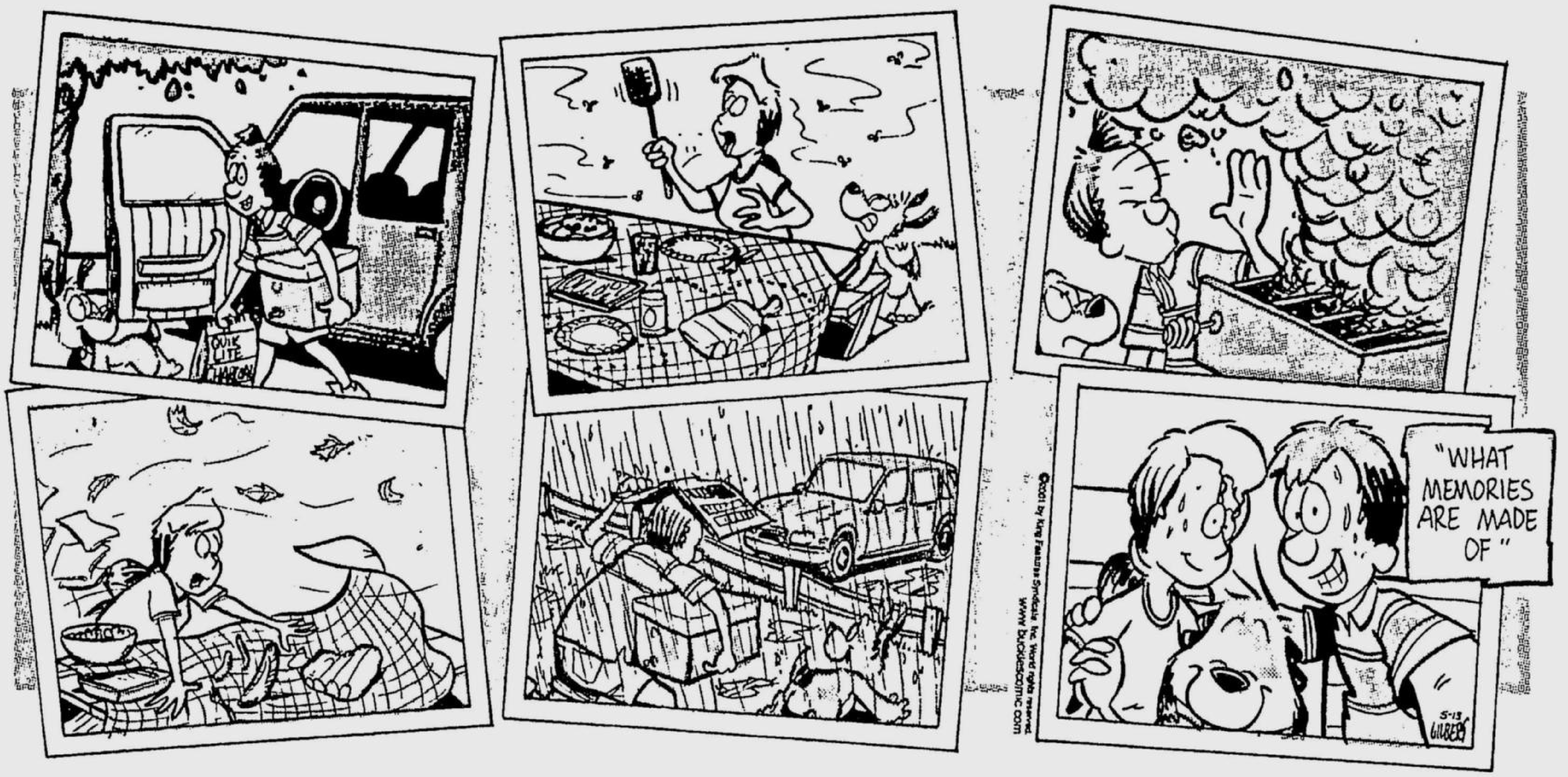
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


QUIK LITE CHARCOAL
"WHAT MEMORIES ARE MADE OF"
5-13 GILBERT

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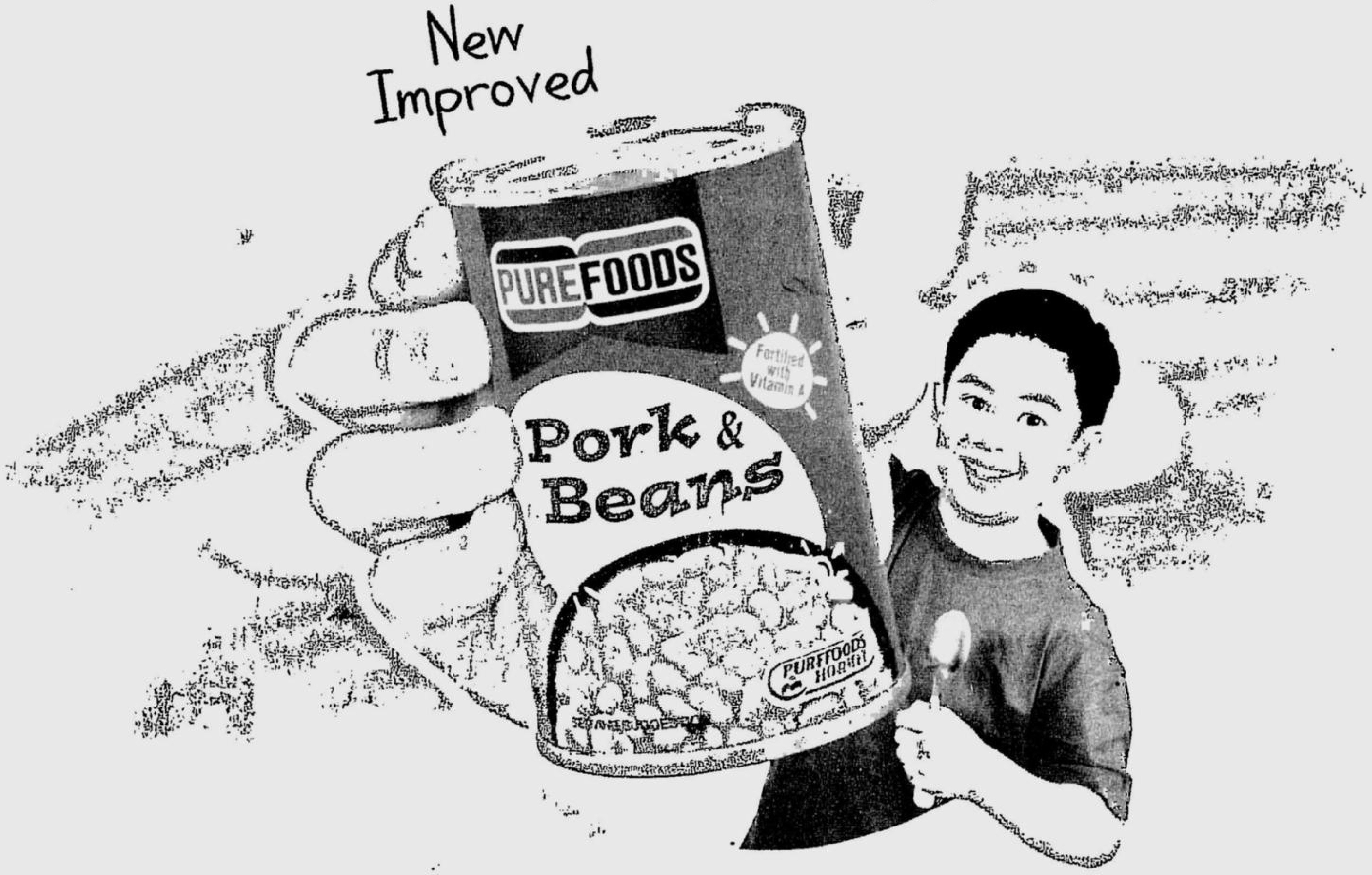
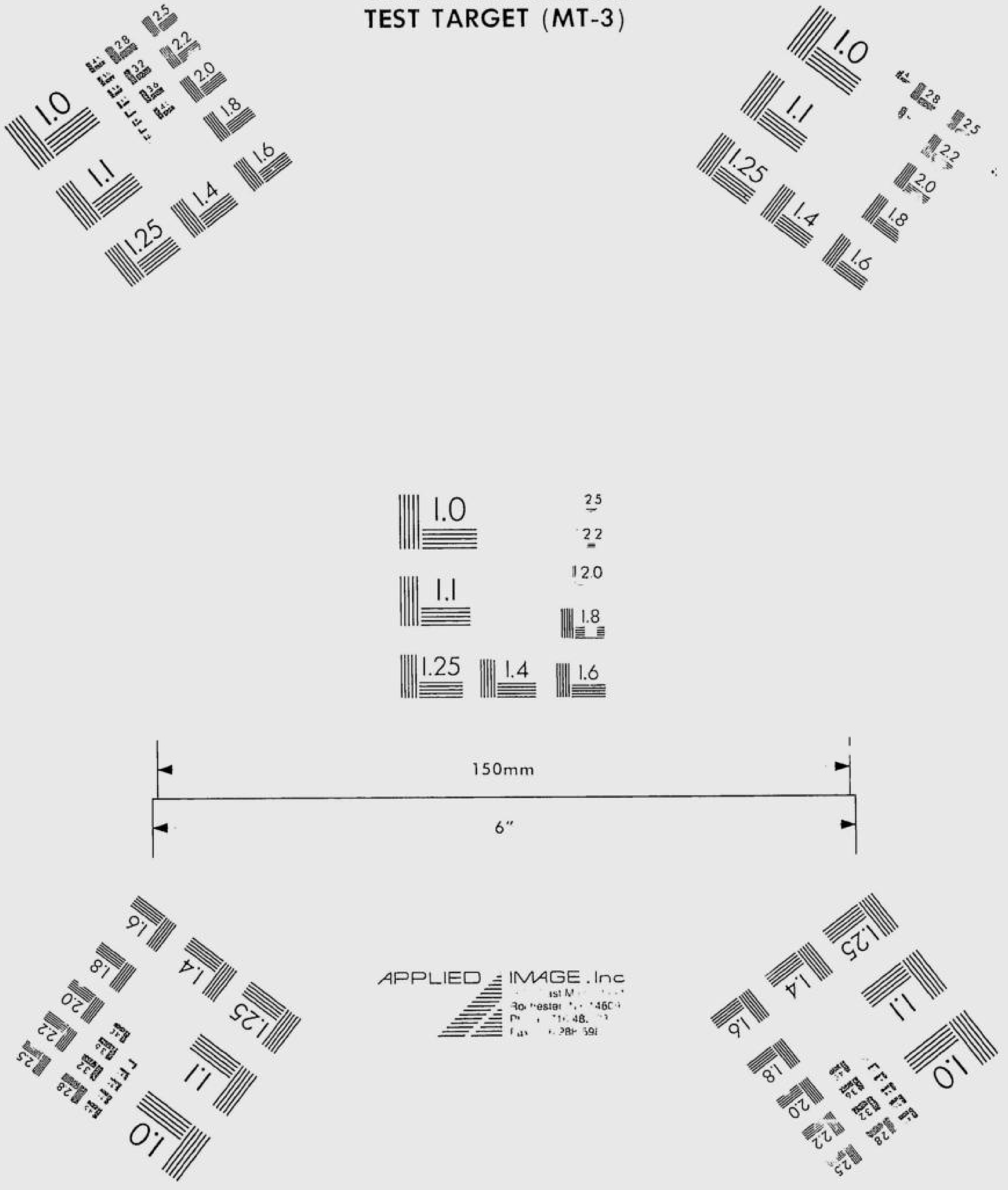

New Improved
PUREFOODS
Fortified with Vitamin A
Pork & Beans
PUREFOODS HORMEL

ANG BAGONG SWEET-SARAP!

Hey kiddo, now enjoy tender plump beans na oh-so-filling
In sweet thick sauce sila'y a-swimming.
Talagang sweet-sarap, a taste na panalo
Kaya I am sure magugustuhan natin ito.
Fortified with Vitamin A, pwede kahit anong oras pa
New improved Purefoods Pork & Beans,
A-Ok kasama sa sarap at saya.

PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods-Hormel Company

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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END

PLEASE REWIND

START

ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY
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P.O. BOX 154, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION FORBIDDEN

FILMED: MARCH 2001

REDUCTION: 19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

MARCH
1 THRU 15
2001

REEL 256

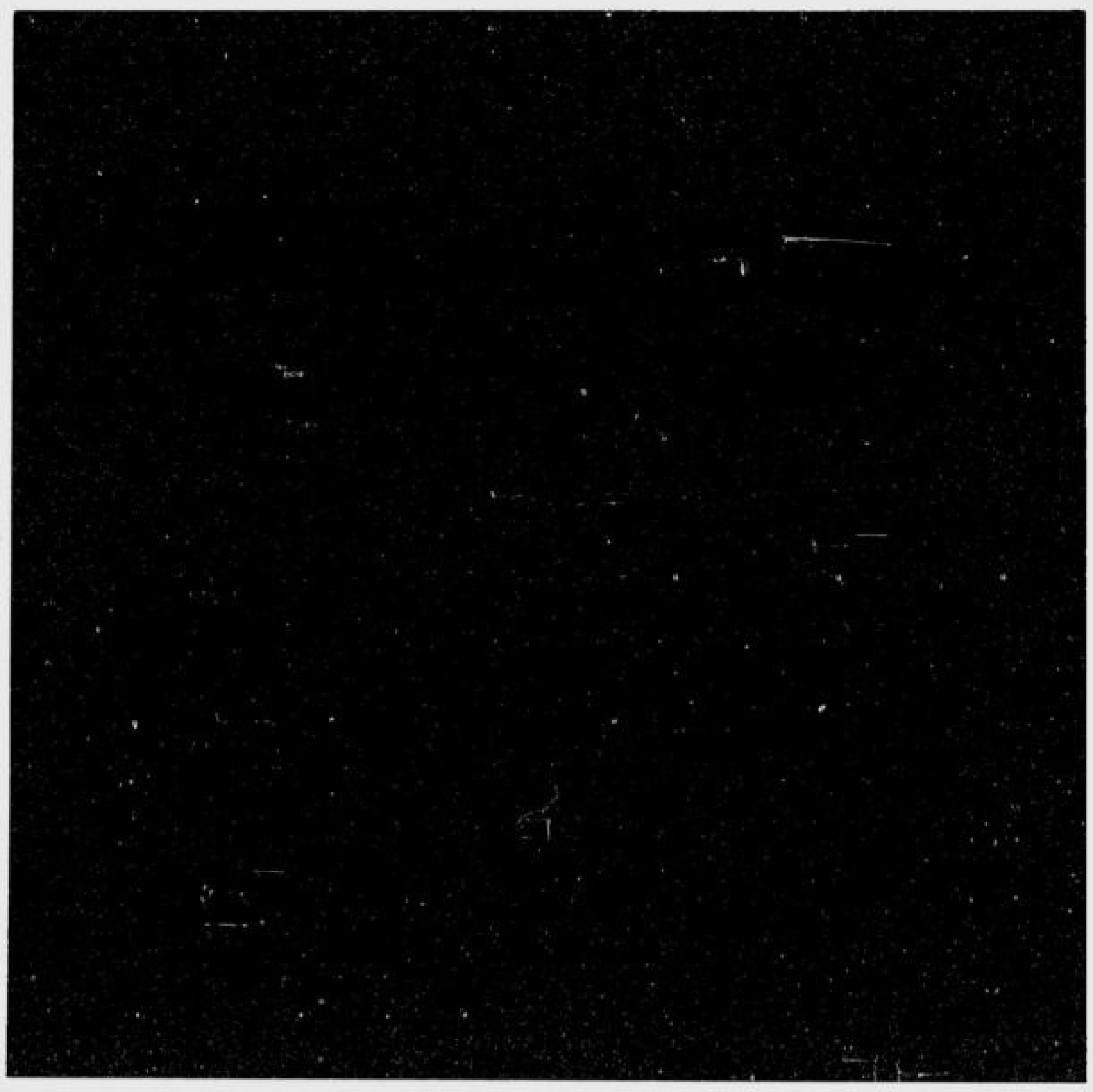

IMAGE EVALUATION
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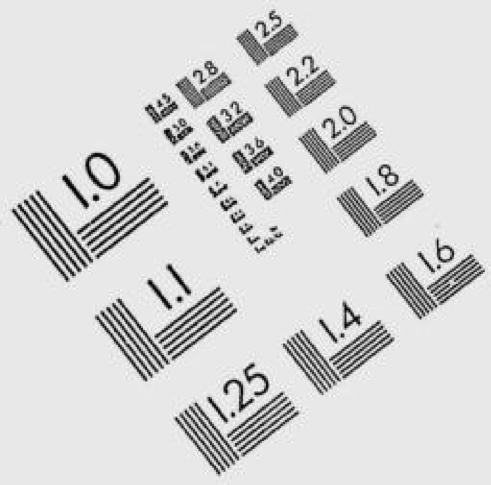
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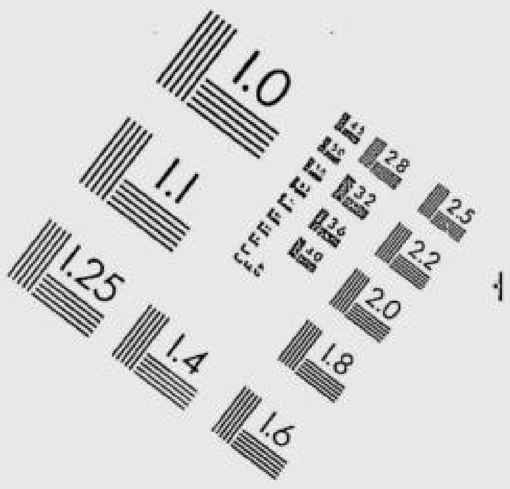
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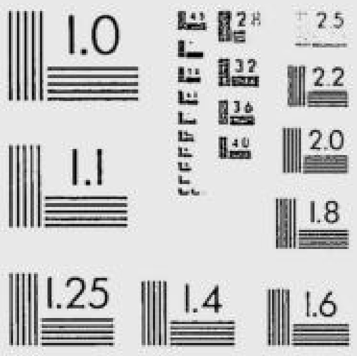
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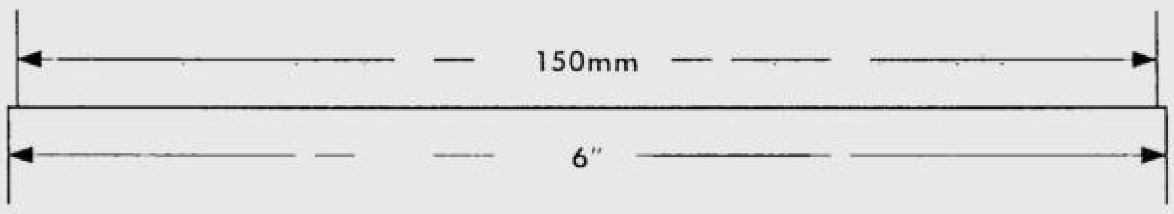

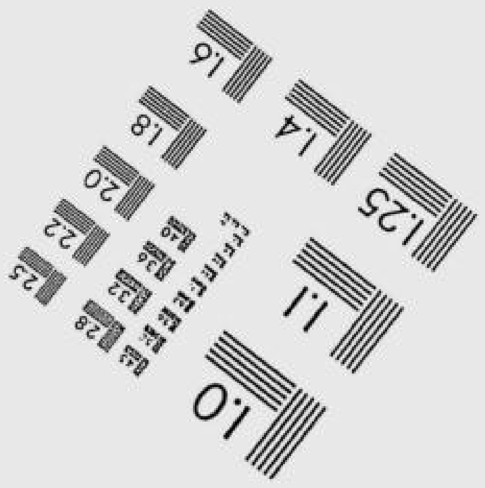
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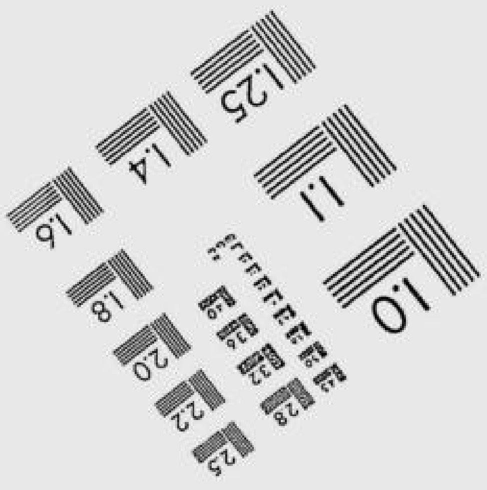
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